

Torii Teller



Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, Japan

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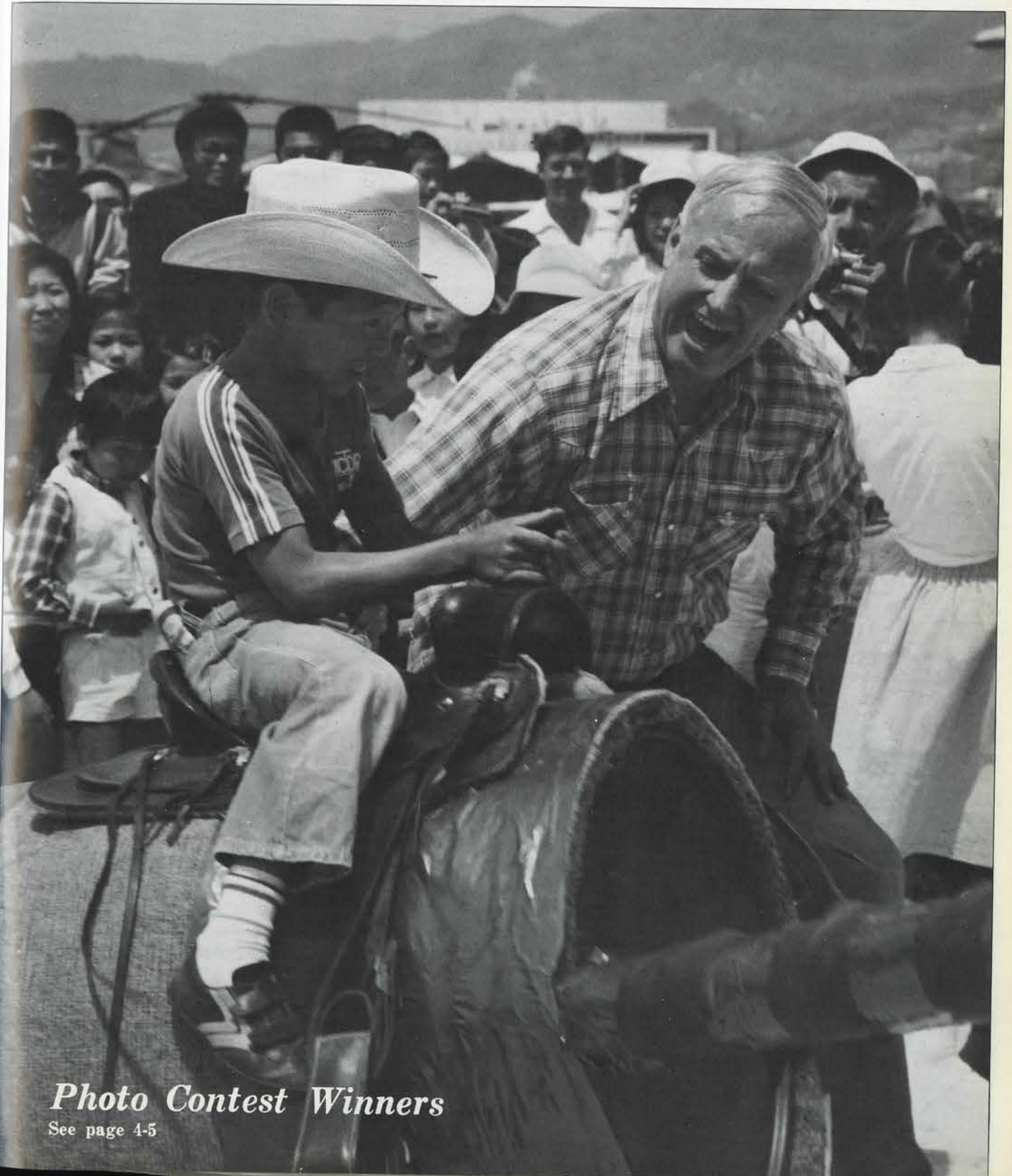


Photo Contest Winners

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Kyoto : Mecca for Japanese Buddhism

By GySgt. Mike Littlejohn

There's an old Japanese saying that goes "See Kyoto before one dies..." To those who have never visited there, I'd adapt portions of that well-founded advice and say see Kyoto before you leave Japan, it's well worth it.

To understand the underlying meaning of the opening quote to the Japanese is to understand the importance of Kyoto and its surrounding area to the Japanese people. First of all, Kyoto is full of deep religious significance by being the Mecca of Buddhism in Japan.

Zen Buddhism became prominent in Japan towards the end of the 12th century, and as a result, the "Five Great Temples" were built in Kyoto. From this beginning sprang 1600 additional Buddhist temples, 30 of which are the headquarters of different sects.

Kyoto was also once the site of the military rulers of Japan, the Shoguns, who for many centuries overshadowed the religious rulers, the Emperors, in guiding the nation's destiny.

Kyoto's history dates back 1,200 years, when Emperor Kammu moved his court and government to the city in 794 A.D. During the 450 years following that move Kyoto became the national center of politics, learning, religion and art.

At the beginning of the 17th century, the Tokugawa regime moved its political center from Kyoto to what is today called Tokyo. However Kyoto, remained the home of the Emperor and his court until 1868 and continued to grow in its own unique way.

With the plans of its streets and boulevards still virtually unchanged

from those of the 17th century, Kyoto today is Japan's fifth largest city and the center of Japan's tourist industry.

One of the more impressive points of interest to those visiting the city is probably the Nijo Castle. Built in 1603 by the first Tokugawa Shogun as a temporary residence while visiting Kyoto, its buildings and surrounding 70 acres are today listed as national treasures.

The works of art that grace the buildings are in themselves tourist attractions. On entering the Chinese gate leading to the first building, one sees the exquisite wooden carvings and beautiful metal work. It's outer panels have carved flowers and butterflies while the inner ones have an imaginary lion in a playful mood and a tiger fighting a dragon, said to be symbolic of the shogun's power against the feudal lords who passed through the gate to honor the shogun.

The entire floor of the shogun's living quarters is built in such a way, either purposely or otherwise, as to produce a "nightingale" effect which makes a singing sound when walked upon. It is said that this was done to warn the shogun against intruders and thus prevent his assassination.

Another point of interest in the "Sanjusangen-Do" or Hall of 33 Ken, so called because of the 33 spaces between the front pillars, is in fact a long Buddhist temple which holds the 1,001 images of the Goddess Kwannon. Besides these images, the hall holds other old items of rare artistic value. The hall is located in the eastern district of Kyoto, about a 15 min. walk from Kyoto Station.

Kyoto's "Sanzen-in" or Temple of 3,000 Buddha Images



Courtesy of Mrs. Sadeko Tooka



Our Cover

Featured on our cover this week is the Friendship Day Photo Contest grand prize winner taken by Cpl. Sandra Casey. The photograph, entitled "The Japanese Cowboy Rides Again!", shows Commander Don Hunter helping a young Japanese boy on the Bucking Horse Ride. Cpl. Casey is no stranger to photography as she works at the Training and Audio-visual Support Center.

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MCAS, Iwakuni, Japan
FPO Seattle, Wash. 98764

CO, MCAS	Col. S. F. Shea
PAO	CWO-4 C. E. Cannon
PA Chief	GySgt. Mike Littlejohn
Torii Teller Staff	
Editor	GySgt. Tony Delgado
Layout & Design	SSgt. John B. Simmons
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Staff Writer	Cpl. Ken Wagner
Sports	Cpl. Nora Parrish
Interpreters	Mr. Shiro Suga Mr. Masaaki Hirayama
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MajGen W. H. Fitch

Environmental Week Set

To make our living environment more comfortable, most world nations designate June 5 as "World Environmental Day." The Government of Japan also designates June 5-11 as "Environmental Week" and calls upon every nation to take a new look at the various environmental problems.

Iwakuni City Hall and neighborhood associations have requested the cooperation of the American military community, especially those living off the Station.

Service personnel and their families, who live outside the Air Station, are again reminded to comply with the Japanese refuse disposition rules. Refuse must be sorted into combustibles and non-combustibles. Combustibles should be placed at the designated pick-up point on the morning (not the day before) of the designated pick-up dates (twice a week Monday through Saturday). Noncombustibles will be placed in green containers located in each neighborhood.

Army Takes Over MPSA

ARNews—The Army has been selected as the DoD agency in charge of the military postal service, DoD officials announced recently.

The Military Postal Service Agency (MPSA), under the direction of the Army Adjutant General, will handle mail services for all the military services under the DoD change. Previously, each military service ran its own postal operations.

The move to combine military mail

Oki Commands Change CG's

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa—The reins of three Marine commands changed hands here this week.

Major General William R. Maloney turned command of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing over to Major General William H. Fitch and command of III MAF to Major General K. L. Robinson.

MajGen. Maloney is going to the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, Cherry Point, N.C. MajGen. Fitch came from Headquarters Marine Corps where he served as deputy chief of staff for Research, Development and Studies. MajGen. Robinson is also 3d MarDiv. commander.

Later the same day, Brigadier General Raymond Shaffer passed the colors of the 3d Force Service Support Group to Brigadier General Joseph J. Went at Camp Kinser's parade field.

BrigGen. Shaffer is going to Marine Corps Logistics Support Base Barstow, Calif. BrigGen. Went came from Headquarters Marine Corps where he served as assistant fiscal director.

Lieutenant General Andrew ODonnell, commanding general, Fleet Marine Force Pacific, and Colonel S. F. Shea, commanding officer, MCAS Iwakuni, were on hand for both ceremonies.

service was made to end duplication and improve military postal operations, according to the officials. The DoD action provides for the first time, coordinated funding of the more than \$120 million spent each year for overseas mail.

Joint military mail activities, according to an Army official, will be located with U.S. Postal Service (USPS) Centers in New York and San Francisco. These activities will provide routing information to USPS on military mail, to include mail going to Army post offices like Miami and Seattle.

Officials say the MPSA headquarters and the joint mail activities will be staffed by all the military services. The MPSA will provide a central point of contact for the USPS and make military mail service procedures standard.

Navy Relief Drive Extended To June 16

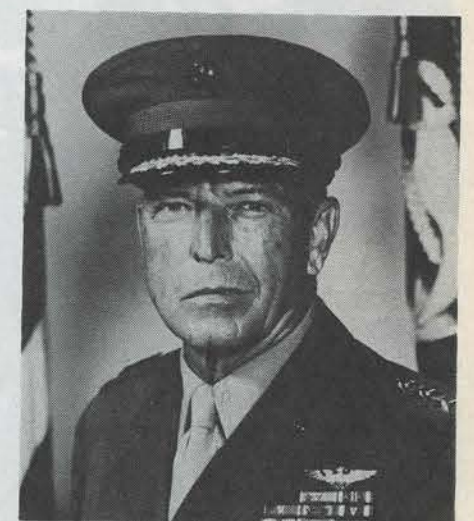
CG FMFPac Visits

The Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific and Commander, Marine Corps Bases, Pacific, Lieutenant General A. W. ODonnell visited the Air Station June 5 thru 6. During his stay, General ODonnell received an update on 1st MAF and Air Station activities and projects.

General ODonnell was accompanied by Mrs. ODonnell as well as Captain M. Frimenko, Force Chaplain, Lieutenant Colonel P. M. Schafer, G-1 Manpower and Sergeant Major J. D. Olexa, Force Sergeant Major.

The Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force, Major General K. L. Robinson and the Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Major General W. H. Fitch were also aboard the Air Station during General ODonnell's visit.

Sergeant Major Olexa addressed Staff NCO's at the Sakura Theater on Thursday afternoon.



LtGen A. W. ODonnell

Friendship Day Photo Contest Winners



Winners of the 1980 Friendship Day Photo Contest were selected May 27, with the winners being presented trophies and prizes by LtCol. Donald E. Andersen, Air Station Executive Officer.

Shutter bugs from as far away as Shimonoseki submitted entries in the two categories of the contest. The winners of each category received trophies as well as name brand instant cameras.

Anyone who submitted a photo and would like it returned should visit the Special Services Office during normal working hours anytime before June 13.

First place color category photo was taken by Corporal Sandra Casey of the Training and Audio-visual Support Center. The photo was taken with a Nikon F-2 at ASA 100 on VPS film.



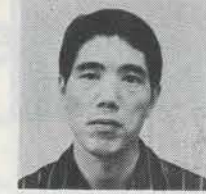
Second place color photo was taken by Masahiro Miyoshi of Shimonoseki City.



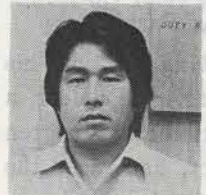
Second place black and white photo was taken by Hayanori Tachikake from Hiroshima Prefecture. The photo was taken with a Pentax SP with Tri-X film at ASA 400.



Third place in the color category was taken by Lance Corporal Todd Smith of H&MS-15, with a Minolta SR-T 202 35mm on Fuji color film.



First place black and white photo was taken by Shoichi Yamaoka of Hikari City. His photo was taken with a Canon A-1 at ASA 400 on Tri-X film.



Third place black and white photo was taken by Shigemi Tanaka of Hikari City with a Minolta XD on Tri-X film at ASA 400.