

JAPAN TRIP

Doug and Jeane Robertson (KY Reps)

Jeane and I just returned from a trip to Japan where we visited with Yas and Michiko in Tokyo. We spent a very pleasant day and a half with them. We toured the Ginza, several temples and shrines, and I dragged Yas reluctantly to a museum where the Belgian creator of Tin Tin, the cartoon character born in 1936 was celebrated with a retrospective. Being a long time fan of the world traveler, Tin Tin, I enjoyed seeing the drawings that chronicled the character's birth and development down to date. Yas, on the other hand, when asked "are you enjoying this" replied "not very much." He hung with us anyway.

Yas and Michiko recently installed a new beautiful front door to their apartment decorated with stained glass. On entering we shucked our shoes and got into the slippers provided by our host. Fortunately, Yas is a relatively big man and appreciates the fact that everyone doesn't have Japanese feet. We drank beer and listened to Four Freshmen recordings and watched tapes both before and after dinner. Michiko had prepared a delicious dinner of primarily Japanese fare.

We reluctantly left Tokyo to return to Takarazuka (pronounced Taka-razka, not Taka-ra-zoo-ka). This was our home base in Japan shared with Kawanishi, the sister city of Bowling Green, Kentucky.

When in Tokyo, Yas claimed credit for causing the Cherry Blossoms to open two weeks early in celebration of our visit. Mayor Shioa of Kawanishi claimed similar credit in his area. Therefore we didn't know to whom the credit belonged but we were happy to observe the forest of white blossoms everywhere we traveled in Japan.

Yas sent me with a message that he looks forward to renewing acquaintances, old friendships and singing the Four Freshmen book in Reston, Virginia.

As a postscript, both Jeane and I should add that while in Japan, touring eight cities and meeting hundreds of people, neither she nor I can remember a single individual that we did not like. Although the plane trip is arduous we would both heartily recommend anyone having the opportunity, to make a visit to Japan.

