

Woman enjoys sixteen day trip in Japan with her son

Vernetta Haack and her son, Ron from Tampa, Fla., recently returned from a 16-day trip, to visit Sharon and Roger Haack, who are currently living in Misawa, Japan. Sharon, a speech language pathologist, is working with children of United States military on the Misawa Air Base, and Roger is teaching an accounting class for the University of Maryland. Together, the "Haack clan" traveled both rural northern Japan and numerous tourist highlights in southern Japan.

They first toured the Misawa Air Base, which is shared by both the United States military and the Japanese Air Defense Force. They went to Sharon's two schools on base, Cummings Elementary and Edgren High School. Before Vernetta and Ron were permitted to go on base, they had to obtain a pass which required presenting passports and finger printing. Additionally, they always had to be escorted by a person who was qualified to be on base. They went to the base exchange, the base "shopping center," but had to have Roger make the actual purchases.

The first week they took day trips from Roger and Sharon's home in Misawa. Nearby they saw Lake Ogaware which is now a recreational facility, but back in world War II, it was the lake where the Japanese practiced the bombing raid on Pearl Harbor. They visited a Buddhist temple in Misawa and were allowed to roam inside. Near the temple was a cemetery which had weird grave stones with assorted offerings to ap-

pease their gods. They went to the Tonami clan Village where in very early days war horses were raised for the Samurai warriors. Roger and Ron went to the Misawa Aviation and Science Museum where they saw a replica of the plane, Miss Veedol, the first plane to fly across the Pacific to Washington State. Later they drove along the Pacific coast near Misawa where the first transpacific flight took off.

From Misawa, they headed west to a scenic mountain garden in the beautiful Hakkoda Mountains, then it was on to the Kokeshi Doll Museum. Kokeshi dolls, originally were made as toys for children of farmers but are now recognized as folk art in Japan. Kokeshi dolls are entirely handmade from the wood cutting to the painting. "Since I collect dolls, I just had to have one!" Vernetta said.

They continued onto a rice crop art field near Inakadate. These are very large elaborate pictures, made from different varieties and colors of planted rice. From the road it looked like a normal rice field, but from a tower they could see the intricate designs. One was a fighting Samurai warrior complete with sword. This was an awesome sight!

They drove on up the peninsula that is often referred to as the "hatchet," because of its shape. They visited the studio of Eiko Oyama, who makes beautiful paper dolls out of colorful hand-crafted rice paper. Oyama has been designated by the emperor as a "national art treasure." She is very elderly and has no ap-

prentice so her special art form will be lost when she is no longer able to practice her art. "Well, of course I added another doll to my collection!" Vernetta said.

At Hachinohe, they visited a famous fish market where they were many, many vendors of fresh fish, including Vernetta's least favorite, squid and octopus. Then they were off to Kayabushima Island, the mating grounds of the black-tipped seagulls, which had just given birth to lots of babies. The hills there were literally covered with the seagulls which gave the effect of silver hills from a distance. With that many gulls it doesn't take much to guess why everyone carried umbrellas! And the chirping of the birds was so loud that one could hardly hold a conversation.

After a week of day trips from home base, the Haack clan left northern rural Japan, for major tourist spots in southern Japan. They traveled on the very fast and comfortable Shinkansen (bullet) trains through Tokyo and on to Kyoto. On the train, they had a typical Japanese box lunch called a bento box, which contains a variety of sushi, rice and other Japanese foods.

In Kyoto, the Haack clan saw the Toji Temple which is a five-storied pagoda, and visited the Niijo Castle. This castle is different in that it has floors that make a bird-like chirping sound when walked upon to warn of intruders and thus given the name of "nightingale floors." Next on the tour was the Kinkakuji Temple, or Golden Pavilion. This temple was originally built as a shogun's retirement villa, but as a devout follower of Zen, he instructed that his home should become a temple. It is covered entirely in gold leaf. The Haacks visited the Imperial Palace. Because it is the home of the emperor, they were not allowed to go into many of the buildings, but walked the palace grounds with its beautiful gardens, ponds and arched bridges. They toured the Sanjusagendo temple, which is the longest wooden structure in the world. This temple contains 1,000 life-size statues of the Thousand Armed Kannon, or thousand gods of mercy. These, 1,000 statues, each 6 feet tall, are protected by numerous large warrior gods. They saw yet another shrine, the Heian Shrine, but did not think this was very pretty, as by now they were getting "templed" out for the day!

Because of a rather steep hill and lots of stairs, Vernetta chose not to see the Kiyomizu Temple. Ron, Rog and Sharon reported that an interesting feature of this temple area was the sacred water fountain. There were three spigots of water running. If you wanted success in business, you drank from the left one, if you wanted success in education, the center, and if you wanted love you drank from the right one. If only it were so simple! While they were visiting this temple, Vernetta

shopped a bit and saw a couple taking a ride in a rickshaw being drawn by a Japanese fellow.

In southern Kyoto, they went to the Fushima Inari Shrine. Inari is the rice and sake god, the spirit who insures an abundant harvest and prosperity. This shrine is guarded by fox sculptures because the fox is Inari's messenger and guardian. This god is a very popular god, so in anticipation to having something for which to be thankful, large torii gates with the donor's name inscribed have been built at the shrine. The torii gate is a common symbol of Japan. These red-orange colored gates indicate the sacred ground of Shinto shrines. There are some 10,000 torii gates at this shrine, winding their way far into the mountains.

The Haack clan took a day trip to Nara which was Japan's first capital (circa 710), and it became the grand diocese of Buddhism. In this 1,300 acre Nara Park there are over 1,000 deer that roam free. These "messengers of the gods" like to beg for crackers and Sharon loved feeding them! The Todai-ji Temple is one of the world's largest wooden buildings and enshrines a gigantic bronze statue of Buddha known as Daibutsu (large Buddha). Daibutsu is 15-meters tall and weighs over 500 tons! Next was the Kasuga Shrine, the most famous and beautiful Shinto shrine in Nara. It features some 3,000 antique stone and bronze lanterns. The original building was completed in 710 but according to the strictures of purity and renewal governing Shinto beliefs, the structure was demolished and rebuilt in identical fashion every 20 years up until 1863.

After four nights in Kyoto, the Haack clan headed to Hiroshima via the bullet train, and went to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. At 8:15 a.m. on August 5, 1945, the city of Hiroshima was the target of the world's first atomic bombing. The entire city was virtually leveled; nearly 200,000 losing their lives. The Peace Memorial Museum displays belongings left by the victims, photos, and other materials that convey the horror of that event, and are supplemented by exhibits describing Hiroshima before and after the bombing. The Haacks wondered what the museum would be like as they were from the country that dropped the bomb on this city. This is the flip side of what the Japanese think as they visit the memorials at Pearl Harbor. For the most part, the museum made pretty factual statements. The museum displays clearly stated that the United States came into World War II after the Japanese sneak attack on Pearl Harbor. The only thing that seem incomplete was the description of why the United States resorted to using the atomic bomb. The only reason stated was to justify the high cost of development of the bomb to the American people. To the Haacks, this seemed incomplete and ignored how many American lives were saved through the subsequent quick surrender of the Japanese, and that this very resilient and tough country might never have surrendered under other circumstances. While incomplete, this was "their" museum and it was very well done and does stand strong to condemn further usage of atomic bombs.

The Haacks visited the A-Bomb Dome which was a somber look at the destructive power of a small atomic bomb. This now famous building is the only remaining structure from the blast. It survived the blast better than many buildings because the bomb was exploded nearly directly above this building. Thus the blast pressures were straight down instead of horizontal which wiped out most other buildings. This building was preserved as an appeal to never use nuclear weapons again. It was amazing to the Haacks to see how Hiroshima had rebounded after the tragedy, to become the beautiful city that it is at the present.

The Haack clan rode the ferry to Miyajima, an island shrine just south of the city of Hiroshima. Miyajima is known as the "resting place of the gods" and features one of the national symbols of Japan, the floating torii gate. Since ancient times the island has been revered and worshiped. The large torii gate is out in the bay. At high tide water surrounds the gate and it appears to float. At low tide you can walk out to the torii gate. The beautiful Itsukushima shrine was originally constructed by worshippers in 593 and later restored to its current splendor in 1168. As the Haacks entered the shrine's covered walkways, they encountered a wedding party. The bride's mother noticed Vernetta in her wheelchair, taking a picture and brought this to the attention of the bride. The bride stopped and turned towards Vernetta to pose

and wait for Vernetta to take her picture.

While to receive this attention is not common in the United States, in the Japanese culture people have greater respect for the elderly. This was noticed yet another time when Roger offered to take a picture of a Japanese family of three women and a man. The man gladly accepted and then noticed that Vernetta was sitting in a wheel chair being escorted by her family. To have your children caring for you means that you are due great respect and this Japanese family who could not speak English, through gestures, insisted that Vernetta join them in their family picture! Because the family was escorting Vernetta meant she was due great respect, and Japanese women would frequently turn and bow to Vernetta on the Street. The Haack kids sure hope this doesn't go to her head.

There are always vendors along these narrow streets so when Sharon saw a "Doctor Fish" sign, she had to give it a try. This was a tank full of tiny fresh water fish from the carp family and they are used to pick old keratin off your feet. Sharon enjoyed a 7-minute foot buffet, where her foot was the food, but said it tickled beyond description and between the toes was the worst.

Leaving Hiroshima, the Haacks headed for Tokyo on the bullet train, where they stayed at the New Sanno hotel. This hotel is only for military or government employees and their guests so Roger and Sharon qualified to stay there. Each time they returned to the hotel, they had to present identification or passports to enter the gated grounds. Since they were now in an American hotel, they had to tip the bell hops and waitresses. They had gotten so used to not having to tip, since tipping is not done in Japan, even though the service is most always excellent.

In Tokyo, the Haacks visited the Senso-ji Temple, popularly known as Asakusa Kannon, Tokyo's most sacred and spectacular temple. It was started in 628 and grew in size and importance. It was destroyed in World War II but rebuilt. The huge paper lanterns, at least 10-feet tall, illuminate the gate into the area. There is a long area of vendors and the road to the temple is lined with lanterns. As with other temples, there was a very large statue of Buddha. In front of the shrine there was a very large incense burner and worshippers "bathed" in the smoke to purify themselves. The Haacks took a cruise of Tokyo Bay and then went to the Tokyo Tower and had a nice view over the city.

Having been in Japan for nine months, Roger and Sharon had tried and enjoyed many foods. But to Ron and Vernetta, much was new and challenging, especially the sushi. Vernetta did try "conveyor belt sushi" where the various sushi plates would come by your table on a conveyor belt. When you saw one you wanted, you just remove it from the conveyor belt. While Roger and Sharon really like sushi, Vernetta was wishing this was Kansas beef!

Hiroshima is famous for its okonomiyaki, a Japanese pizza. The Haack clan went to a place that had been recommended. It was a building where on the fourth floor,

there were numerous vendors providing their version of this pizza. The Haacks picked one, sat down at the counter and watched as the food was prepared in front of them. The pizza is completely unlike that in the states. It starts with an egg on the bottom, on which noodles were piled along with a variety of meat, onions and vegetables. The pizza was served on a continual "hot plate" that went in front of the whole counter. The food was always hot as you took a portion off of the hot plate to put on your plate. Unlike sushi, Vernetta loved this dish.

It is possible to get around Japan without knowing much if any of their language. A lot of times, ordering was done by pointing to pictures of food since seldom was the menu in English. The waitress would even escort you out to the front window, filled with plastic food, so you could point to the food you wished to order. This is a very standard practice in many restaurants in Japan. Once they even pointed to another patron's food to let the waitress know what they wanted. All food was served with chopsticks which Vernetta never did get used to, but Ron did very well. Soup is drunk out of the bowl, and rice may be "shoveled" from the bowl to the mouth. They pickle any type of vegetable and Vernetta and Ron didn't care for these very much. Tempura is a light deep fat fried method of preparing food, and the Japanese will even serve a tree leaf tempura style!

Japan has many beautiful gardens. The lupine gardens were in full bloom in an array of colors. They were so beautiful, it is almost indescribable. Their sculptured trees in different designs are absolutely gorgeous and were specially noticed in Misawa. The rock and water gardens are all so peaceful and beautiful.

The fun being over, the Haack clan left Tokyo via bus to the Tokyo-Marita airport. Ron and Vernetta flew on Koran Airline and Roger and Sharon another airline back to the states. Roger and Sharon are spending the summer in the states visiting grandkids and family, before returning for another school year in Misawa, Japan.

"We had a great time traveling together," Vernetta said. "I loved seeing new parts of the world with my family. Although very different from ours, I enjoy and respect Japan's culture. It was a very clean country with no graffiti and very little litter. On train cars, if a cell phone rang, the person would leave the sitting area to talk, since taking a call in public is considered discourteous. Also no food or drinks were allowed in any of the stores, and you don't even carry a drink out on the streets. Our only disappointment was that Ron's wife, Arlene, was unable to accompany us on this wonderful trip. Arlene had tickets to go, but then won a new job with the Hillsborough County School District in Tampa. She will be a mentor for the new Teacher Induction Program, which is partly funded by a Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Grant. Arlene had mandatory training and thus had to let Ron go on this trip without her. That was a major disappointment for all. Other than missing Arlene, this was a wonderful trip."

DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE NOTICE FOR 2009 TAXES

Published in The St. Francis Herald, St. Francis, Kansas, and The Bird City Times, Bird City, Kansas, Thursday, August 19, August 26, September 2, 2010. Notice is hereby given that the taxes assessed for the year 2009 on the lands, lots and blocks described in the following list, accompanied by the names of the owner and situated in Cheyenne County, State of Kansas, are in whole or in part unpaid and that said land, lots or blocks will be, on the first Tuesday of September 2010, bid off by me in the name of Cheyenne County, NO BIDDERS BEING allowed and sold to Cheyenne County for the amount of delinquent taxes and interest and legal charges due thereon and unpaid to said date, according to the provision of Chapter 79, Articles 23 of The Kansas Statutes Annotated unless otherwise prohibited by applicable Federal or State law. Dolores Jenik, Cheyenne County

BIRD CITY			
CARPENTER GRAIN CO	25	3	38
CARPENTER GRAIN CO	25	3	38
EDIE, OLIVE %WARZENIAK, GEORGE	25	3	38
JAMES, TROY	36	3	38
SHANNON, EARL L	36	3	38
BIRD CITY ORIGINAL			
BIERBACH, DARLENE S	36	3	38 LOT 1&2
BURNS, TERRY L, & JANE E	36	3	38 LOT 16-18
HOFFMAN, TERRY D &	36	3	38 LOT 4-8
PETTY, DAWN A.	36	3	38
RILEY, ROYCE	36	3	38 LOT 8,9 & 10
SEMLER, CALVIN	36	3	38
SHANNON, EARL L	36	3	38 LOT 1-2
SOWERS, STEPHEN	36	3	38
SOWERS, STEPHEN	36	3	38 LOT 1-6
TOLER, JERRY	36	3	38
WILLY BILL			LOT 10-12
E.O. CERRY ADDITION			
LEE, BILLY J%LAMPE, KELLY	36	3	38 LOT 13-18
MARSH, WALTER I & CAROL J	36	3	38 LOT 5-12
ST FRANCIS - DAYTON ADDITION			
CLAPPER, MINNIE %ROSE, PAT	22	3	40 LOT 16
MCCOY, TED	22	3	40 LOT 21
NORATHRUFF, WILLIAM %SUTER, GREGORY	22	3	40 LOT 6 & W2 OF 5
SMITH, SHERRY ANN	22	3	40 LOT 15
ST FRANCIS ORIGINAL			
FORSYTHE, LARRY & DEANNA	21	3	40
FORSYTHE, LARRY & DEANNA	21	3	40 LOT 4
FORSYTHE, LARRY & DEANNA	21	3	40 LOT 14
GADWAY, RHONDA	21	3	40 LOT 4
GADWAY, RHONDA	22	3	40 LOT 9
GILLILAND, MICHAEL T & DEUTSCHE BANK TRUST	22	3	40
HOARD, DANIEL & KATHERINE	22	3	40 LOT E 36' OF 8
JENSEN, LUTHER &	22	3	40 LOT 1-4
KNUT, THERESA L	22	3	40 LOT 20
LAMPE, SHARANNE	22	3	40
PETER, JEANINE WEAVER	22	3	40 LOT 4
RICHERS, KENNETH	22	3	40 LOT 8
SALAS, MARJORIE	21	3	40 LOT 2
SEMLER, DOROTHY J.	22	3	40
SHERMAN, DONALD W	22	3	40
TOLER, JERRY	22	3	40 LOT 14 & 15
HENRY'S ADDITION			
BISHOP, LEROY	22	3	40 LOT 20 & 21
FORSYTHE, LARRY & DEANNA	22	3	40 LOT 1&2
GADWAY, RHONDA	22	3	40 LOT 9 & 10
PARK HILL ADDITION			
ADAMSON, ELDA %TOLER, JERRY	27	3	40 LOT 23 & 24
BARNHART, BRADLEY W	27	3	40 LOT 1-4
DEGOOD, NEVA F & COY L	27	3	40 LOT 5,6,7
FINLEY, JOHN L III	27	3	40
FORSYTHE, LARRY & DEANNA	27	3	40
KRIEGH, RICKY L & DEANNA L	27	3	40 LOT 9 & 10
MAHON, GLENN & AMANDA	27	3	40 LOT 9 - 10
MEYER, NICOLE	27	3	40 LOT 41 & 42
ROGERS, DAWN M	27	3	40 LOT 43 & 44
SCHULZ, EDWARD LEE	27	3	40 LOT 25-28
SMITH, BILL %WRIGHT, JENNY	27	3	40 LOT
WRIGHT, DAVID L	27	3	40 LOT 23 & 24
ZWEYGARDT, TINA	27	3	40 LOT 13 & 14
FORSYTHE, LARRY & DEANNA	21	3	40
JENSEN, LUTHER	28	3	40
JOHNSON, DARREL R			810 S SCOTT
MAHON, GLENN & AMANDA	27	3	40
MILLER, MARVIN R %COATES, BONNIE L	28	3	40
ROSE, PATRICIA A. ETAL	28	3	40
WRIGHT, DAVID L	28	3	40
BIRD CITY TWP.			
BEESON, CODY & ALICIA	4	3	38
EDIE, OLIVE %WARZENIAK, GEORGE	16	2	37
EDIE, OLIVE %WARZENIAK, GEORGE	17	2	37
EDIE, OLIVE %WARZENIAK, GEORGE	21	2	37
EDIE, OLIVE %WARZENIAK, GEORGE	25	3	38
HEMPLER, DOUGLAS	32	2	37
MAGNANI, SCHELLY	2	1	38
MAGNANI, SHERIDAN	1	1	38
MAGNANI, SHERIDAN	2	1	38
SHAFFER, JERRY J	5	1	37
SHAFFER, JERRY J	6	1	37
SHAFFER, JERRY J	1	1	38
SHAFFER, JERRY J	11	1	38
SHAFFER, JERRY J	12	1	38
SOWERS, STEPHEN	17	4	37
WIESE, JARED %WIESE, SCOTT	2	1	38
WIESE, SCOTT & DEBRA	2	1	38
WINTER, DEBRA D	28	5	37
WINTER, DEBRA D	33	5	37
CALHOUN			
WIESE, SCOTT & DEBRA	9	1	38
WIESE, SCOTT & DEBRA	16	1	38
WIESE, SCOTT & DEBRA	17	1	38
WIESE, SCOTT & DEBRA	20	1	38
WANO			
FORSYTHE, LARRY & DEANNA	26	3	40
HELTON, KENDALL L & KEVIN L & KAHLER	27	3	40
JOHNSON, RANDY	27	3	40
MAUPIUN TRUST, IONA F	33	1	42
MAUPIUN TRUST, IONA F	34	1	42
MAUPIUN TRUST, IONA F	3	2	42
MAUPIUN TRUST, IONA F	4	2	42
MAUPIUN TRUST, IONA F	9	2	42
MAUPIUN TRUST, IONA F	10	2	42
MCCARTHEE, JUSTIN	22	4	39
NORTHROP, ROBERT T	5	1	41
NORTHROP, ROBERT T	6	1	41
NORTHROP, ROBERT T	17	1	41
NORTHROP, ROBERT T	18	1	41
NORTHROP, ROBERT T	19	1	41
NORTHROP, ROBERT T	27	2	42
NORTHROP, ROBERT T	29	1	41
SAMLER, ROGER	25	1	42
SAMLER, ROGER	10	2	42
SAMLER, ROGER	11	2	42
SAMLER, ROGER	13	2	42
SWARTZ, JANET ETAL	10	5	39
VANDERFORD, ELSIE %NORTHROP, BOB	32	1	41
WRIGHT, DAVID L	27	3	40
WRIGHT, DAVID L	27	3	40
ORLANDO			
EDIE, OLIVE %WARZENIAK, GEORGE	11	3	39
EDIE, OLIVE %WARZENIAK, GEORGE	14	3	39
BENJAMIN			
HELTON, KENDALL L	6	5	41
HELTON, KENDALL L & KEVIN L	6	5	41
HELTON, KENDALL L & KEVIN L	7	5	41
JAUQUA			
HELTON, KENDALL L	1	5	42
HELTON, KENDALL L	12	5	42
HELTON, KENDALL L & KEVIN L	1	5	42

BLK 16	402.40
BLK 24	242.26
	100.00
BLK 2	227.44
	66.41
BLK 15	235.53
	177.90
BLK 58	105.55
	364.48
	67.08
BLK 47	31.07
BLK 2	361.66
BLK 57	46.07
BLK 5	139.47
BLK 54	544.11
BLK 57	326.99
BLK 32	8.64
BLK 29	90.23
BLK 33	77.92
BLK 33	154.82
BLK 7	133.82
	808.20
BLK 38	155.84
BLK 5	94.29
BLK 18	248.71
	90.00
BLK 42	691.48
BLK 7	543.11
BLK 47	403.43
	334.24
	129.18
BLK 15	156.41
BLK 51	703.69
BLK 48	1,040.82
BLK 50	348.40
BLK 23	198.08
BLK 30	153.86
BLK 14	1,207.51
	1,187.70
BLK 9	618.12
BLK 31	26.03
BLK 1	89.44
BLK 1	51.27
BLK 16	382.03
BLK 26	4,425.97
BLK 14	367.80
BLK 8	143.42
	1.20
	220.54
	1,059.30
	111.52
	64.03
	1,325.03