



四街道市国際交流協会広報誌(ヨッカニュース)

YOCCA NEWS

Yotsukaido Cross-Cultural Association News

Vol. 3

2012.6.30

5月20日 マザー牧場へバスツアー



日本を始め中国・台湾・フィリピン・韓国と様々な国と地域の参加者、総勢 73 人で記念撮影!



お待ちかねのジンギスカンランチ! 鮮やかな山の緑とさわやかな青空を眺めながら心行くまで堪能



目次・Contents

- P1. 5月20日 マザー牧場へバスツアー
- P2. 姉妹都市リバモアでの滞在報告
- P3. 姉妹都市リバモアでの滞在報告、他
- P4. 【連載外国籍市民インタビュー】クローズアップ!

- P5. 【連載コラム】Think You Know Yotsukaido!?
- P6. 協会の活動報告
- P7. 【こんにちは!】法人会員紹介コーナー
- P8. 【ピックアップ】初めまして~所属会員の自己紹介~
協会からのお知らせとイベントスケジュール
編集後記、会員募集のご案内

Think You Know Yotsukaido?

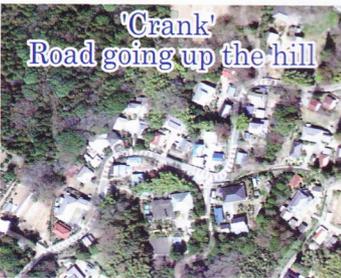
四街道を知り尽くそう!～『四街道知ってるか!?!』 このコーナーはヨッカ副会長のデボン・マクネアさんが四街道を探索する連載コラムです。

Castles of Yotsukaido -Part2-

藤本さんのご主人が正式な築城技術を用いて造った20分の1の大きさの『お城』を見ながら藤本さんから色々な話を聞いたデボンさん。旧鹿渡城址がある『郷土の森』へと話が及びます。実は藤本さんのご実家が『郷土の森』の近所だったということもわかりました。

デボンさんは現在は閉鎖されてしまった『郷土の森』を訪ねて歴史の面影を感じ、『旧吉岡城址』で枝垂れ桜で有名な『福星寺』に思いを馳せながら帰路へつきました。

Sadly Fujimoto Castle looks like it may suffer the same fate that eventually meets every castle – slowly worn down by natural forces. The rock walls are still solid but the woodwork, repainted several times, is in need of repair. The miniature lord living inside probably has to live with a leaky roof in a couple places. Mrs. Fujimoto holds no illusions about the eventual fate of her husband's creation. "After I pass away, the next person who lives here can tear it down if they like. Friends suggested moving it to Yotsukaido Park, but it'd get ruined there too. Kids would throw rocks at it and cover it with graffiti." Human nature does its damage too.



In the middle of our conversation Mrs. Fujimoto asked us "what precisely brought you here?"

"We were on our way to see the castle remains at Kyodo No Mori." (郷土の森)

"Oh! I was born very close to

there. It was my family's neighborhood."

What luck! I listened to her impressions of the area.

"When I was a little girl my mom used to say 'I'm going up to Castle Hill to cut grass.' It never occurred to me that there was actually once a castle up there! Only later did I learn that the squiggly annoying road going up the hill – we called it the 'crank,' was the same road that lead up to the original castle."

I immediately thought of what I'd learned visiting Osaka Castle – there are no straight roads approaching the castle – every road winds and turns, making the castle that much harder to attack. And then it hit me again, a sensation I often feel in Japan, that nothing is "new," it just changes its appearance.

Kyodo No Mori
at the time of 2004

Mrs. Fujimoto spoke of Kyodo No Mori – although held as private land, the owners let it be used as a park, where people could walk around on the hill. They even erected a lookout-tower on



the north-east tip of the hill.

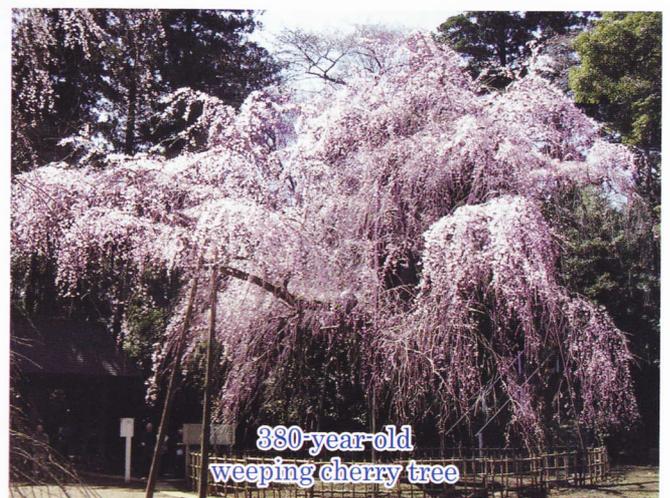
Unfortunately visitors helped themselves to wild flowers and bamboo, left garbage, and laid claims on the owners if tree branches damaged their cars. Eventually the owners gave up and closed the whole area, even going so far as to tear down the lookout tower.



After we said goodbye to Mrs. Fujimoto and thanked her again and again for her time, we spent the last hour of daylight taking a walk around Kyodo No Mori. I was sorely tempted to run up the short steep hill where the lookout tower used to be, but having just heard Mrs. Fujimoto talk about the whole area being closed due to disrespectful visitors, I restrained myself. Instead we walked around the base of the hill, and up a narrow forest path toward the top. What remains of the castle (actually three castles together) is what you don't notice -- the hills and valleys you climb up and down were originally the earth embankments and trenches. The wood and stones of the castle have disappeared long ago.

Emerging from the woods to the street we passed a sign that used to say "Kyodo No Mori parking entrance" but had been purposefully blacked out with tape. Then we emerged to the street, the "crank" which Mrs. Fujimoto spoke of. It was no longer just another windy narrow residential street, but the current face of something that had been existing, even living, for over half a millenium. We walked along the ancient street, back to the car, and left just before dark.

As an aside, right now (late March, early April) is a great time to visit another castle remains in Yotsukaido. Fukusho-ji (福星寺) in Yoshioka, home to a 380-year-old weeping cherry tree, was built where another castle once stood. All that remains of this castle, like the others, is earth embankments.



380-year-old
weeping cherry tree

"Think You Know Yotsukaido?" の日本語訳を会員向けに配布しています。希望する人は当協会事務局までご連絡ください。