

Welcome To Itazuke



First For East Home
Of The F-100's

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Base Commander's Welcome

In behalf of everyone at Itazuke, I wish to welcome you to Itazuke Air Base...key to Southern Japan's Air Defense, and the first Far East home of the F-100. Our location on the Island of Kyushu has also dubbed Itazuke as the Air Crossroads of the Far East, and the Florida of Japan. At Itazuke we have the metropolitan nearness of Fukuoka, Japan's sixth largest city, yet suburban solitude of quiet country-side...offering a similitude of American style living in an Oriental setting.

We are also proud in having some of the Air Force's nicest people and a good neighbor relations with

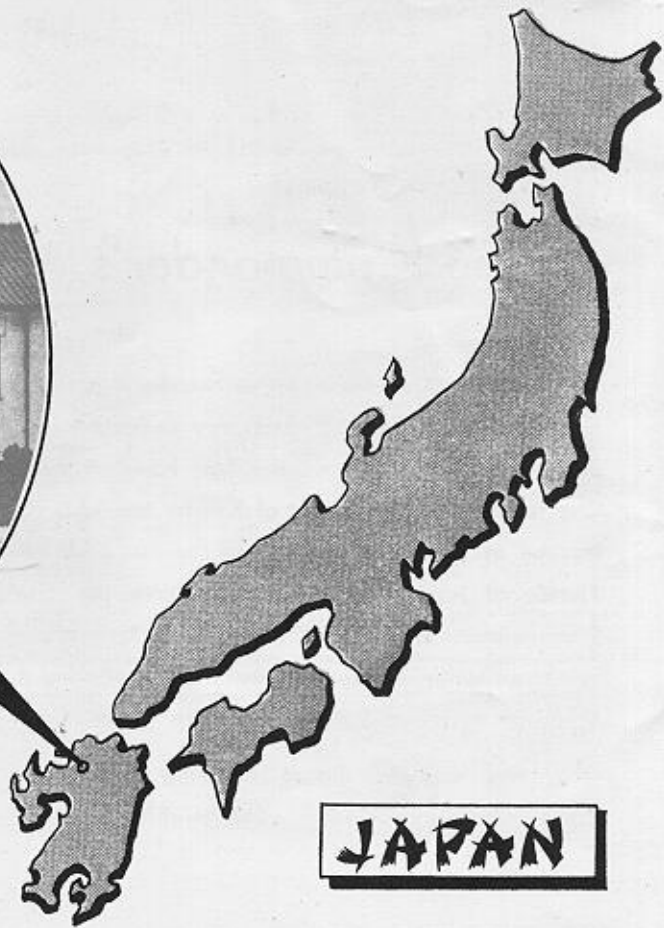


Col. Frederick M. O'Neill

the Japanese which is no accident, but the effort of our "Southern Hospitality". It's in this spirit we welcome you to Itazuke and hope this booklet will help make your stay a most pleasureable and profitable one.

Sincerely,

Frederick M. O'Neill



JAPAN

In late 1944, the construction of Itazuke Air Base was completed on the site of Mushiroda Base, a former Japanese Army Air Force installation. The base, built on rice paddy land, housed the 6th Fighter wing of the Japanese Air Force equipped with 30 single fighters and a few twin engine reconnaissance planes.

In April 1945 the Tachiarai Air Strip at Kurume, about 20 miles south of Itazuke, was struck by American B-29's. The Japanese moved their bombers from Tachiarai to Itazuke as a base of operations until the very last days of the war when Itazuke was destroyed by American B-29 bombers.

The first Americans to arrive at Itazuke were under the command of Col. McBride of the Army Engineers. When these occupational forces took over in October of 1945 there was only one hangar on the base and a small portion of the Annex in existence.

In March 1949 the 8th Fighter Bomber Wing replaced the first Air Force occupation unit at Itazuke, the

315th Composite Wing. The 8th remained at Itazuke until 25 June, 1950, the start of the Korean conflict.

When the 8th Fighter Bomber Wing was transferred to Korea, the 8th Air Base Group took over the operation of the base and became the 6160th Air Base Wing in December 1950. Throughout 1951 and 1952, the 6160th supplied logistical support for bases in Korea and local area.

In March of 1952, the 527th AC & W Group was deactivated at Itazuke and in its place the 43rd Air Division was formed with headquarters located at Itazuke.

During the next two years an immense construction program started which saw the completion of a new mess hall, BOQ's, and Airmen billets.

On October 1954, the 8th Fighter Bomber Wing resumed command of Itazuke until February 1, 1957, when the 8th Air Base Group again took over the housekeeping chores of the base.

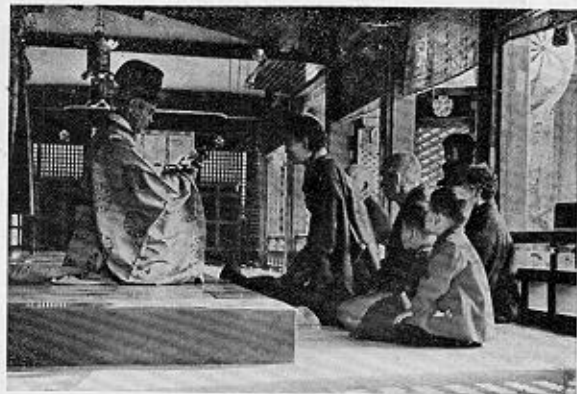
Itazuke's History

Something
about
Japan



Post-war Japan has seen many changes from its earlier centuries of customs, particularly in government: Today's Japanese Diet (lower house) of 457 members and House of Councillors (upper house) with 250 members are elected by popular vote. A Prime Minister, in place of the Emperor, heads the government. Japanese courts are more westernized, large land owners have been broken up, and Japanese women are enjoying emancipation from servant status.

Some oddities of custom noticeable to newly arrived Americans are: answering negative questions with a "yes". For example, "you have no bananas?" "Yes, we have no bananas." Some Japanese cover their mouth with a mask in the belief that it will protect them from respiratory diseases. Japanese many times smile when in deep sorrow. This is to hide their true feelings.

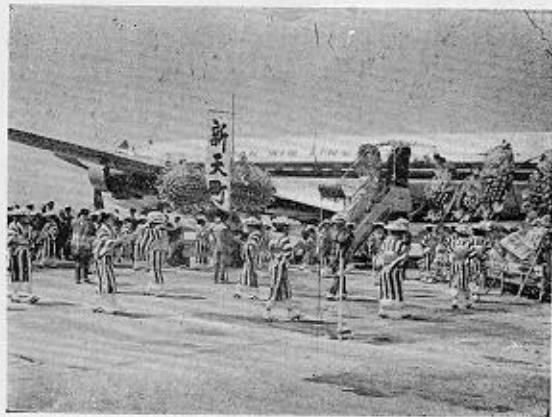


Top—Japanese Buddha. Bottom—Religious Shrine ceremony

Japanese mothers carry their babies on their backs and often nurse them in public. No one questions its propriety. Japanese women generally walk leisurely because their men folk consider fast walking unbecoming. This custom is irritating to a busy pedestrian or motorist, who in time, learns a Japanese custom himself—patience. This patience is often tried when boarding a bus. You are often pushed by people who are most gracious and polite should you enter their home. Again, it is hard to understand Japanese etiquette.



Photos—Japanese guests visiting the base on Armed Forces Day

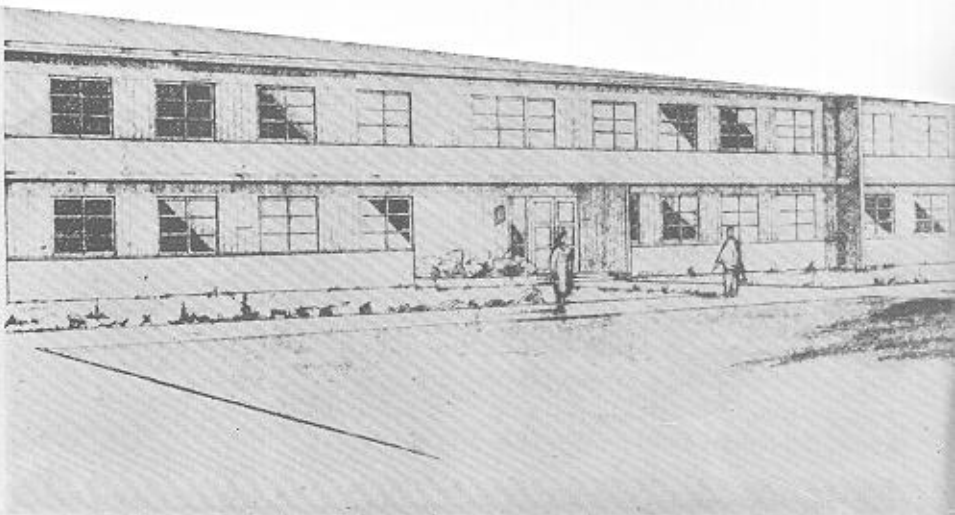


When a Japanese moves to a new house, it is considered very impolite if he fails to call on his nearest neighbors with a card and small present. The neighbors, however, do not return the call.

In Japan it is definitely not ladies before gentlemen as the wives still tag along a respectful number of paces behind their husbands.

The language is gestulated with the head in short, punctuating nods, unlike the French who use their hands.

The housing problem in Japan is more acute than at bases in the states because of a lower economy and denser population. While the quality of Japanese construction is not quite what Americans are used to, adequate housing can be found. The size of your quarters will depend upon two factors: availability and size of family. Housing is divided into the following types. **BASE HOUSING**—Itazuke has 380 units with 2, 2 1/2, 3, 3 1/2, and 4 bedrooms. A new commodity credit housing project is now under way at Area #1 with its 200 new units ready for occupancy in 1958.

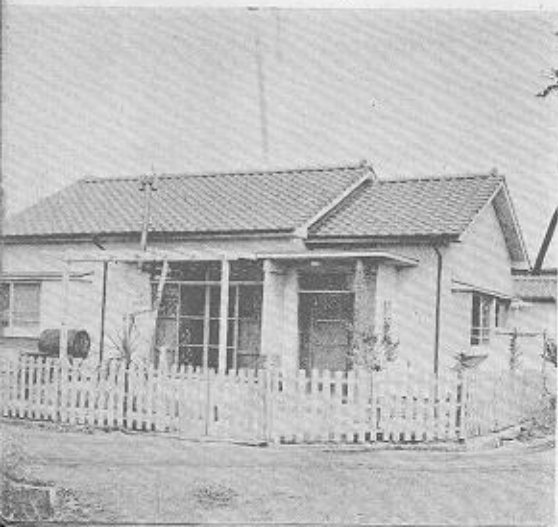


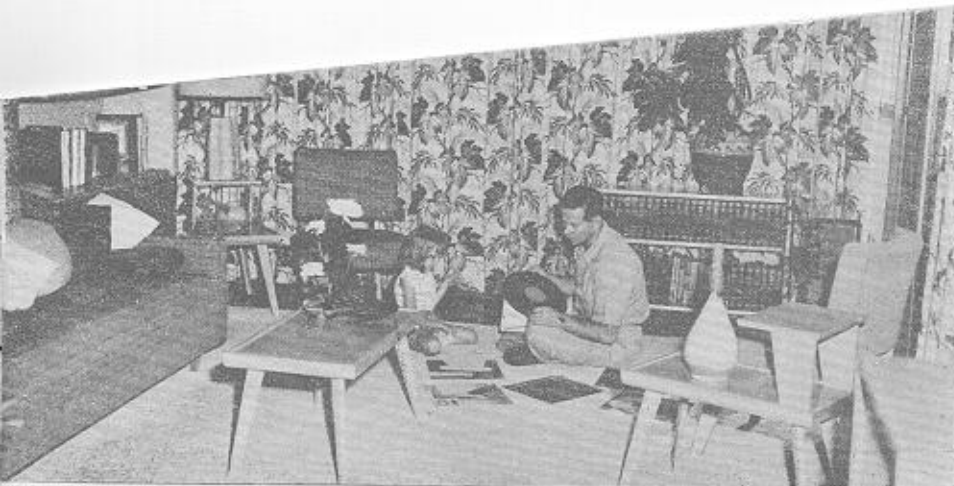
Artist's sketch of New Commodity credit Houses

Housing In Japan...

Another 346 on base houses are located at nearby Brady Air Base for Itazuke personnel. **OFF BASE PRIVATE RENTALS**—There are 811 such houses presently at Itazuke. Furniture storage space is limited and storage is at your own risk. You will no doubt need furniture of your own whether you bring it with you or buy it from the base Thrift Shop or someone returning back to the states. Basic furniture is provided with your on base house.

← *Typical off base dwelling*





Most of Itazuke off base rentals are a short 10-15 minute drive to either the Air Base or Area #1. Buses make regularly scheduled runs to both bases but private automobiles are authorized and recommended. Off base rentals are usually surrounded by Japanese houses and rice paddies. Play areas for children are non-existent or limited in these areas. Sewage is restricted to septic tanks. Most electrical appliances operate well on local electricity. A few work better with a transformer, available here at lower cost.

... Off And On Base

Part of your tour at Itazuke will be spent living off base. Present conditions necessitate a 20-month wait prior to moving on base. You will find quaint neighborliness despite certain inconveniences associated with stateside living, all of which present a creative challenge to your own ingenuity. Most private rentals measure 500 sq. ft. or more in area and rent from \$70 to \$95 a month unfurnished. These houses must be approved to meet American standards by the Base Housing Board before occupancy. Telephones are few because of high installation cost (\$250) heating is mostly by kerosene space heaters (most economical); cooking by propane gas or electricity (most practical). Off base residents are entitled to draw furniture only when the supply exceeds the demand on base...and then only for 120 days. The Itazuke climate is humid and damp and sidewalks are rare so in bringing furniture and rugs anticipate more than normal wear.





Discretion and common sense in selecting foods and restaurants in Japan is necessary. Because chemical fertilizer is not used and sanitation standards are not too high cooking all locally produced foods is a "must". There is an abundance of fresh produce grown on the base farms and available for seasonal purchase at the commissary making purchase from Japanese markets unnecessary. If you do choose to buy from the Japanese market, special care should be taken in preparation and cooking of such food.

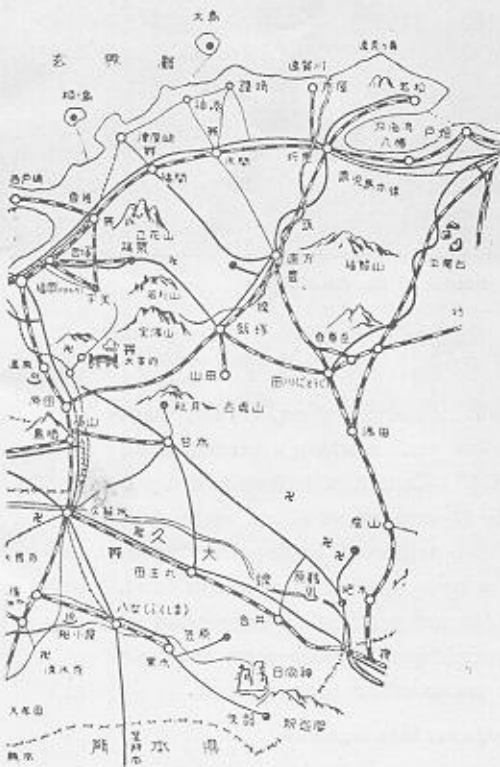
Japanese Food

The Japanese health authorities have graded most restaurants, and those displaying an "A" in their window are the best choice in meeting sanitary standards. No one in Japan should miss the delicious sukiyaki dinner prepared right at your table. These, and other national dishes such as "Tempura" are safe to eat in the better restaurants. The quality of Japanese dairy products is very poor, but eggs and fish, if strictly fresh, meet our standards. A rule of thumb is that Japanese food served on trains, planes, and top-grade hotels can be eaten with little or no worry. The beverage most generally served at Japanese restaurants is green tea. Coffee, while expensive, is usually available. Both are safer to drink than tap water.

福岡県観光案内圖

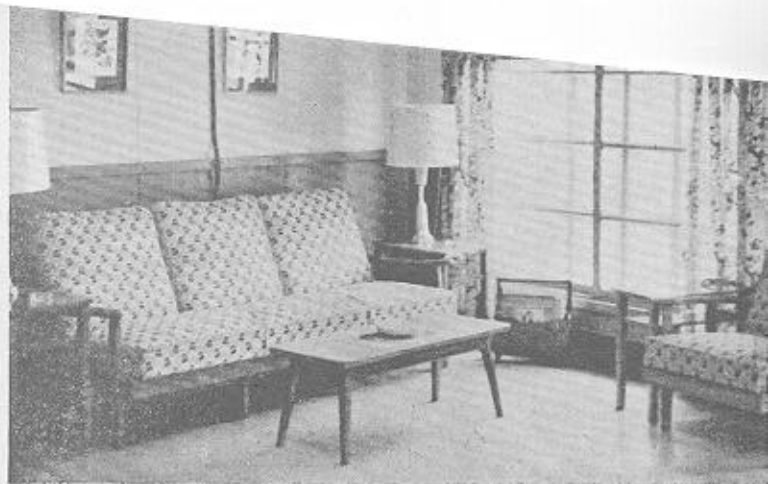
Driving In Japan

You may bring your vehicle to Japan duty free, but like household goods, you can expect a delay of 6-8 weeks for its arrival. Upon its arrival the car must be taken to the Fukuoka Land Transportation Office for inspection and Japanese license plates. To pass this inspection privately owned cars must be equipped with flashing-light turn indicators. Your car must also be registered with the Base Pass and Registration Section within 5 days after arrival. Dependents should bring with them a valid stateside driver's license in order to obtain a Japanese driver's permit. Driving in Japan is on the left side of the road and normally takes but a short time to adjust to it. Speed limits in Japan are 35 mph. during daylight hours and 30 mph. at night and lesser speeds in posted areas. Speed limits are strictly enforced and violations may result in loss of driving privileges. Gasoline in Japan is about 70 octane (somewhat higher at base service stations) and service and repairs can be obtained on the Japanese market as well as on the base. Sale of privately owned vehicles to the Japanese is authorized only when the model is two years or older and has been registered in Japan for a period of at least one year. A person can not sell a duty free imported car if he has sold another car within a 3-year period. The one car-per-three-year sale limitation means one car per family, not one car for each member of the family.



Itazuke Dependents Assistance

A tailor-made friend is awaiting your arrival at Itazuke...a volunteer of the Dependent's Assistance Program. From the Welcoming Committee at the train or plane, to finally getting you settled, DAP functions as a friend when a friend is needed most. Spotters keep in touch with your port arrival, your sponsor, and vital data of your immediate needs upon arriving at Itazuke. Transportation is arranged, guest house quarters are made available, and



Interior of the Guest House



a breakfast kit including coffee, cereal, eggs and milk for the next morning's breakfast is provided. A DAP Center is maintained by a volunteer staff to answer and act upon calls of newly arrived personnel in regard to problems facing a new family in a foreign land. DAP's aim is to make a lasting impression of your first impression of Itazuke—one you will want to pass on to other new arrivals.

← Base Garage has been expanded

What To Bring...

You are advised to bring items that you will enjoy and will add to your comfort such as: heating stove, kerosene or butane cooking stove, refrigerator, electric roaster, washing machine, deep freeze, sewing machine, clothes dryer (however, the base laundry supplies a drying service very reasonably), bed and bed linen, vacuum cleaner, toaster, waffle iron, mixmaster, iron, cooking utensils, lamps, draperies, fans, rugs, linoleum, record

player and records, television, pictures and bric-a-brac, living room furniture, chests of drawers, baby bed, play pen, crib, electric blankets, dishes, silver and table linen. Furniture is also available at reasonable prices in the BX, should you decide against shipping your stateside furniture. Don't bring your heirlooms and other prize family possessions which are breakable and face hazards of shipping.



Your clothing needs will be met by shopping in the ready-to-wear department in the Base Exchange and by local dressmakers. Dressmaking and tailoring are considerably cheaper here than in the states and there is a wide choice of fabrics available. If you have a fur coat you will be able to wear it here, and cold storage is available in the summer. If you are diffi-

cult to fit you may find it a problem to get shoes in your correct size. In any case, it is advisable to keep an account in a stateside store which can supply you. Children's clothing is available in the Base Exchange, but not all sizes at all times. It is wise to have a good supply of essentials such as snow suits, overshoes, rubbers, underwear, blue jeans and play clothes.

Shopper's

In Fukuoka there are large department stores replete with modern window displays and escalators. These Japanese versions of Macy's and Gimbel's have English-speaking interpreters available and offer many afternoons of shopping pleasure for American bargain hunters.

On the Ginzas (a street full of small shops spilling their wares out on to the sidewalks) the shopper is afforded an Oriental backdrop of china shops, shoe shops, hardware stores and myriads of specialty shops where bargaining and haggling of price is the custom.

Japan does not mass-produce as we do at home; therefore, if you find an antiquish article that catches your eye... buy it, because it is not likely you will find a duplicate.

←Top—Daimaru Dept. Store. Bottom—Japanese Ginza.



Guide

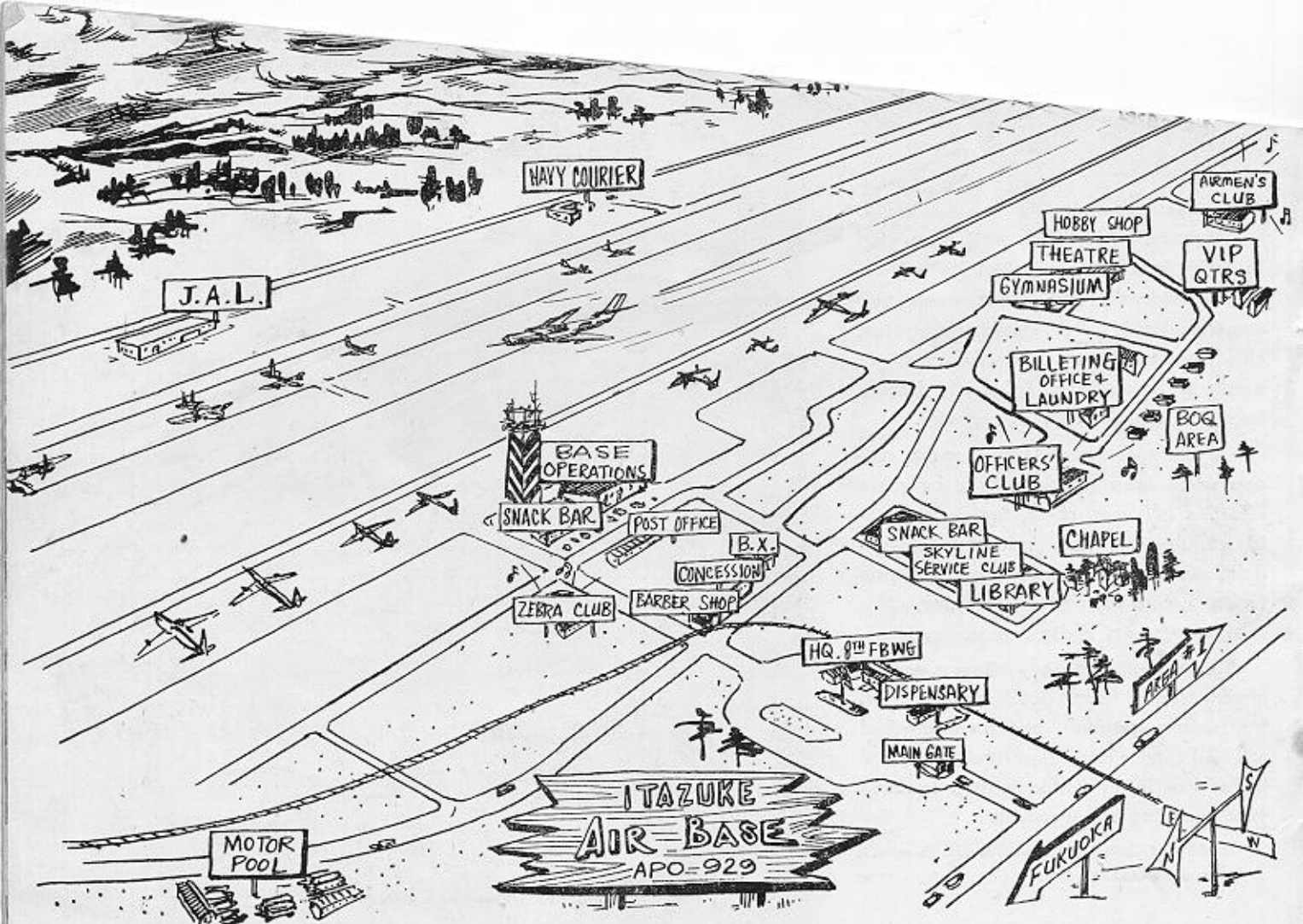
A modern Base Exchange, completed in 1956, houses a wide variety of infants', children's, and adult wear plus cameras, yard goods, drugs, cosmetics, china, record players and thousands of sundry stateside items. A favorite feature here is the mail order department.

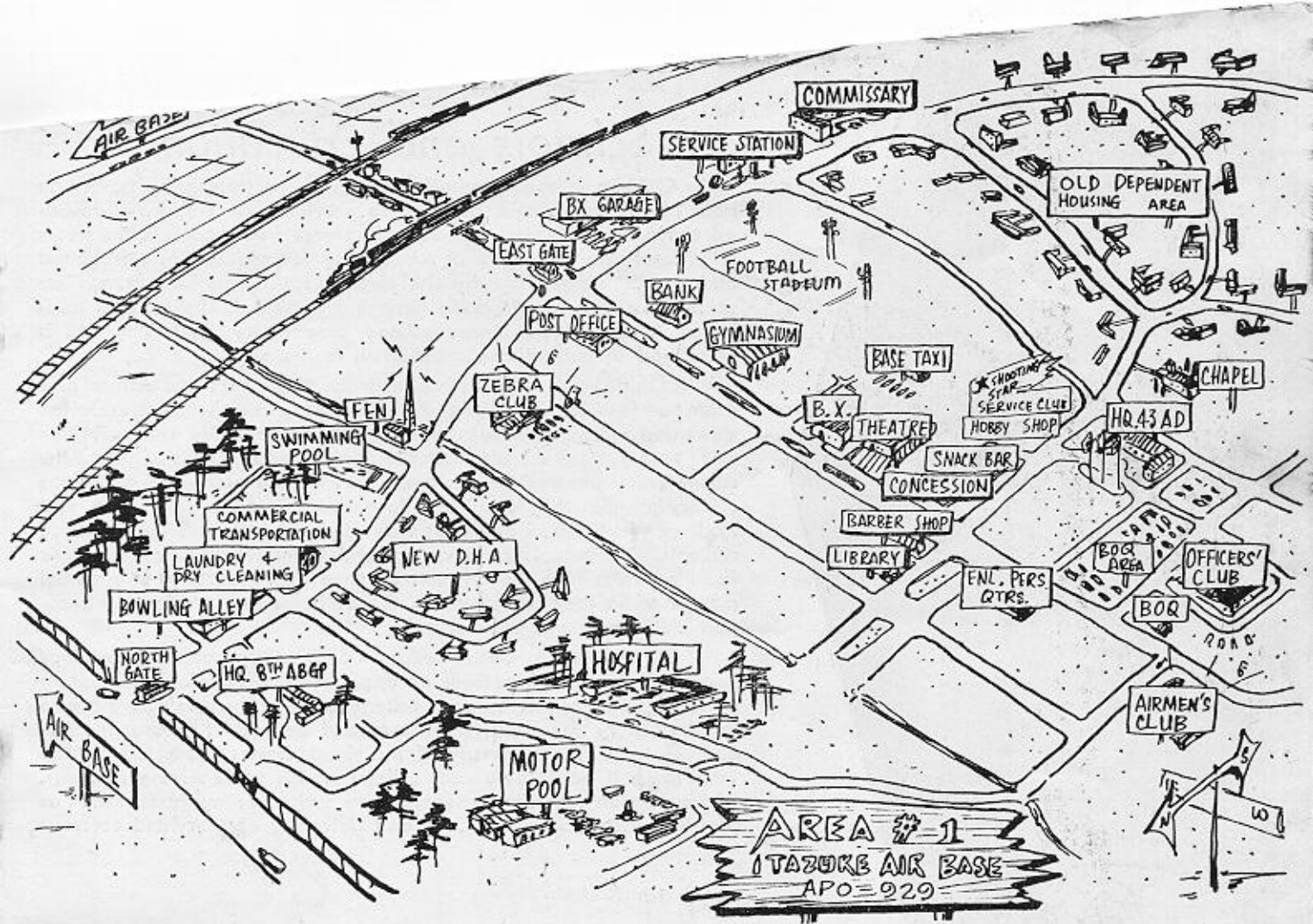
A newly enlarged Japanese-run concession at Area #1 features a complete selection of silver, china, brassware, fishing equipment, furs, millinery, Hakata dolls, camera equipment, jewelry, rattan furniture, and custom made shoes, plus shoe, watch and radio repair.

The Base Commissary offers a variety of canned and frozen goods, poultry, fresh fruits and vegetables, and a well-stocked self-and service meat department. Regular bus service is an added feature to make your shopping more convenient.

BX and Commissary are up-to-date in services and merchandise →









Schools and Education

Children attending school at Itazuke are fortunate in having an able faculty and varied activities to provide them with a well-rounded curriculum. Teachers on leave of absence from schools in the states fully meet the standards of accrediting associations in the United States and those set up by the Department of the Air Force. The grades run from kindergarten through high school. The high school is keyed to the United States college preparatory curriculum, and is accredited by educational associations in the states.

In addition to regular school activities, there is an inter-cultural program now in effect which gives American students a chance to exchange views and customs with their Japanese counterparts. Field trips include visits to Japanese schools, factories, shops and other places where the students may observe the Japanese way of life and learn about the country in which they are living. In exchange, Japanese students visit the Dependent School and trade views and opinions with the American students. The school has a varied and extensive library and other facilities which help the students continue their education in a normal manner while they are overseas. School buses are provided to transport children to and from school.

The Education Center offers USAFI study courses to military personnel which provides them an opportunity to complete elementary school, high school, or to earn college credits. There is also a course in introductory Japanese for military and dependent personnel offered each term. The University of Maryland classes conducted on the base make it possible to earn college credits while serving overseas. Personnel with teaching experience are invited to apply for work as part-time instructors with USAFI and University of Maryland courses.



Religious Service and Chapels

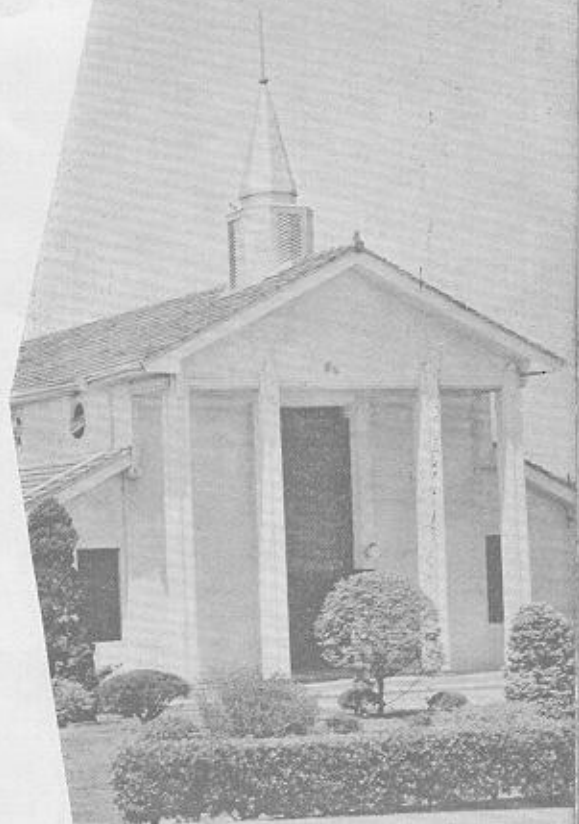
The churches of Itazuke extend a warm welcome to all newcomers. An interesting and varied program is offered in addition to the regular worship services for those of Protestant, Catholic and Jewish faith. Sunday school and a yearly Summer Vacation Bible School provides learning and recreation for the children. The chaplains are available for performing such special ministrations as marriages, private counsel and hospital visits. There are also several denominational missions in Japan whose services are available to our personnel.

PROTESTANT

General Worship Services	
Morning Worship 0945 & 1100	
(Communion first Sunday each month)	
Evening Worship	1900
Denominational Worship Services	
Latter Day Saints	1115
Church of Christ	1500
Episcopal	1600
Christian Science	1800
Lutheran	2015

CATHOLIC

Sunday Masses	0830 & 1230
Daily Mass	1210
	(Saturday 0830)
Confessions Saturday, 1030-1100,	
1915-2015, and before all	
masses.	
Devotions, Rosary and Benediction,	
Monday and Saturday, 1900	
Catechism In Dependent School,	
and grade school	





*Community Life
In Full Dimension*



Itazuke Sonicle

Base Paper Jumps To Ten Pages Weekly

The Itazuke Sonicle recently increased its format to ten pages, giving local readers a wider depth of coverage including a woman's page, a teen-age page and more space for local new stories of base-wide interest.

The newly named paper has upped its staff adding a photographer and staff reporters.

Another popular feature of the Sonicle is the initiation of its new home delivery service. It's believed to be the first time such big city service has been put into action by a base newspaper in the Far East.

Now its 4,000 readers at both Itazuke and Brady Air Bases will be able to read the weekly base paper Saturday morning with their coffee.

A four page colored comic supplement has also been slated to appear once a month in the Sonicle. "This should give our readers a vast variety of reading pleasure," said the Editor.

This is in keeping with the Sonicle's policy to be one of the most outstanding newspapers in the Far East.

With the jump to a ten page paper, the Itazuke Sonicle become one of the largest base papers in Japan, it was pointed out.



FAR EAST NETWORK NOW BEAMS 'ROUND-THE-CLOCK'

Popular stateside programs and music can now be heard 24 hours a day with newcasts every hour on the hour by FEN. The local Itazuke station will soon boost its power to 10,000 watts making its day and night signal strong enough to be heard all the way to Korea.

Itazuke's radio station announced it will also broadcast many new shows shortwave such as major sport events, political and election news

and speeches from the President covering timely news happenings.

These changes mark a new change to the FEN

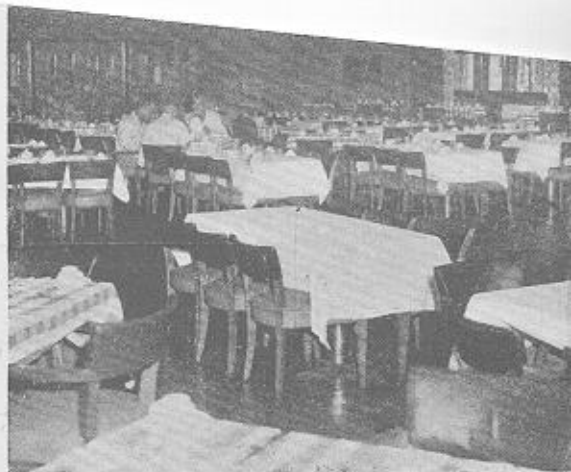
program format designed to keep Itazuke listeners more informed on world events and their listening fare more enjoyable.



THE SONICLE'S STAFF

On Base Entertainment

At Itazuke we have double fun because we have double clubs. Because of the divided base there are two Officers' Clubs, two NCO Clubs, two Airmen's Clubs, two Service Clubs and two theaters. Dancing, bingo, bridge, floor shows and weekly buffets are some of the many entertainment highlights at the clubs. The Service Clubs feature weekly tournaments in shuffleboard, ping pong, pinochle and pool, regularly scheduled sight-seeing tours, and nightly entertainment. Variety is truly the spice of Itazuke's social life.



Clubs form nucleus of Itazuke entertainment



The newly remodeled Kasuga Theater on Area #1 offers the movie-goer plush air-conditioned comfort and wide-screen viewing capacity for over 800 people. Many of Hollywood's latest releases are featured twice nightly plus Saturday matinees. The air-conditioned Barrineau Theater on the Main Base bills a daily matinee and three runs nightly. Thus Itazuke movie fans have their choice of two on base cinemas.

← *Newly remodeled theater at Itazuke*



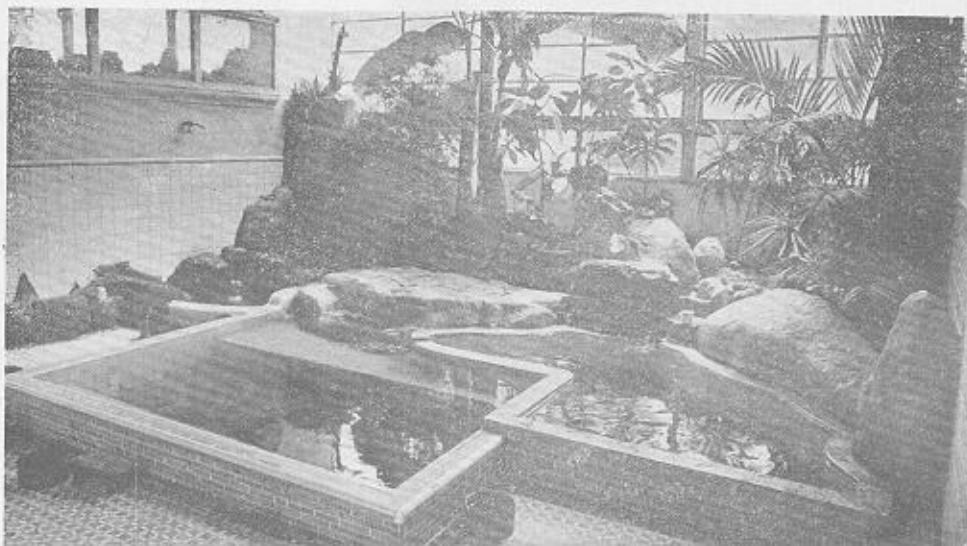
Left—Sport Center in Fukuoka

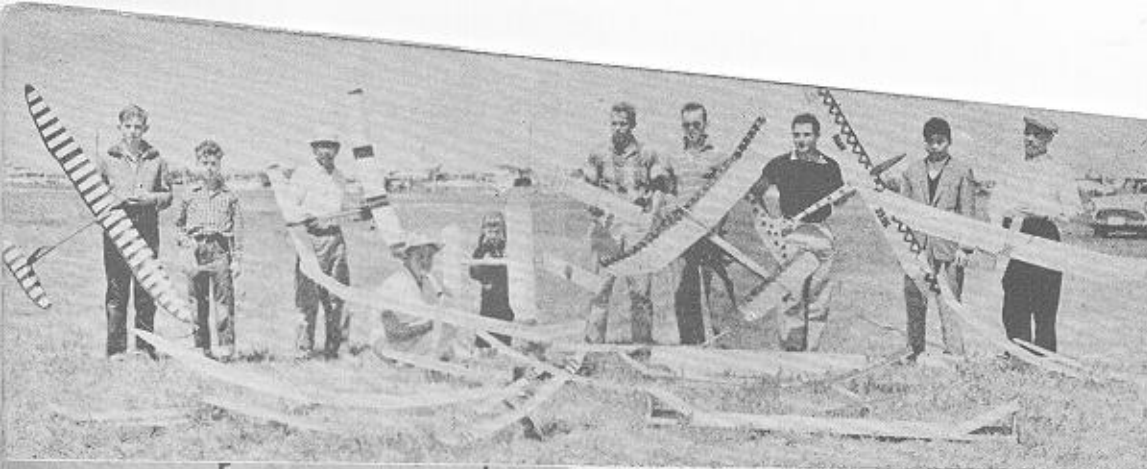
Americans can enjoy the famous hot baths which are featured at several nearby Japanese inns and hotels. Many of these healthful baths are enclosed in unique and beautiful Japanese garden settings. Sukiyaki dinner parties at these hotels are also a popular attraction. Beaches in a panorama of leaning pines and distant mountains are within close driving distance and provide excellent swimming facilities. Many entertaining daylight and evening hours can be spent in and around metropolitan Fukuoka.

Off Base Entertainment

Social life at Itazuke is not restricted to the base. In downtown Fukuoka there are several theaters, comparable in modern design and comfort to some of our stateside theaters, which feature recent American films. Concerts given by world-famous orchestras and singers may be seen at the Sports Center and Denki Hall. Ice skating during the winter months and roller skating in the summer may also be enjoyed at the Sports Center. Baseball enthusiasts look forward each year to the appearance of a stateside major league baseball team at the Fukuoka baseball park.

Below—Picturesque Hot Bath in Futsukaichi





Recre

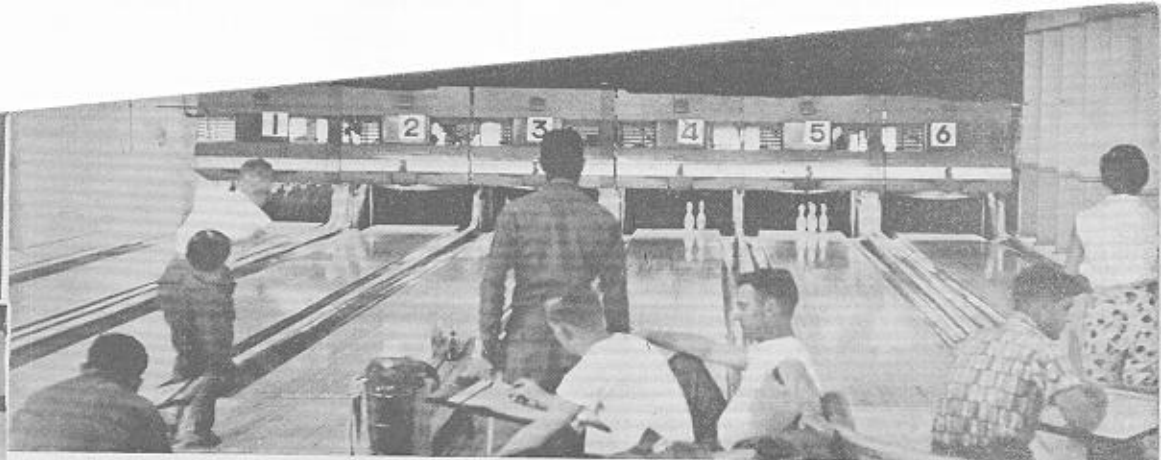


"All work and no play" is not the order of the day at Itazuke. An expanded base recreation program has provided personnel with extra baseball diamonds, a new skating rink, a new bowling alley, a new indoor rifle range, a new handball court, and many improvements to already existing facilities.

Two nearby golf courses enable the service family plenty of putting around outdoors. A large swimming pool and many close-by beaches provide ample opportunity for aquatic activity including water skiing and skin diving.



ation



Inter-base athletic competition is strongly supported at Itazuke by participant and fan alike. The local Green Wave team boasts many league victories in varied sports of all kinds.

For fun and relaxation...Itazuke offers a playground for almost any age group. A good sport is a good worker, therefore, sport are definitely not de-emphasized at Itazuke.



Youth Activities

Itazuke has a wide and varied youth activity program. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts all meet regularly under the leadership of volunteer workers. The older scouts usually go to a supervised summer camp and frequently the site is Mount Fujiyama near Tokyo.

The teenagers have their own club with a snack bar which is operated by the Base Exchange. Dances, picnics and

parties every week are among the many activities in a program that makes for a busy social life for the Itazuke teenagers.

Another popular teenage activity is participation in their own radio program, "Teenagers on Parade", one hour each week. The show, written, produced and announced by the teens originates in the Itazuke studio of FEN and is aired all over Japan.



Local teen-agers enjoy having their own snack bar

A very successful Summer Activity program for children of all ages is staged every summer. The Youth Fellowship which is sponsored by the Chapel has a good program of activities which appeal to the young people. The Base Hobby Shop, model plane field, model automobile race track, and the tennis and ball courts are other facilities which are available. Little League baseball teams for boys from 8 to 12 are sponsored each spring. Whatever his or her interest, the Itazuke youth finds life here a happy and interesting one.

Itazuke Facilities

Itazuke, like other Air Bases, has many facilities to aid and assist the well-being of its personnel. These facilities are geared to the community needs of Americans in day to day living or in time of emergency.

On the base are located the American Red Cross, the Air Force Aid Society, and other locally organized groups offering personal and family assistance.



Base Hospital

The Chase Manhattan Bank of New York City has a branch office at Itazuke to handle checking and savings accounts of permanent and transient personnel.

Two Post Offices are located on the base, and the Concessioner, for a slight charge, provides a "packaging for mail" service.

Overseas telephone and telegraph service is available daily except Monday. Rates for overseas calls are \$4.00

per minute on week days and \$3.00 per minute on Sundays. Telegrams can be sent for 120 Yen Per word (33¢).

The base hospital presently has 65 beds in operation with another 35 beds slated to be ready in September 1957. The hospital staff includes fourteen physicians, thirteen dentists, and seventeen nurses. Weekly aero-medical evacuation flights can take patients to larger and better equipped hospitals in the Tokyo area if necessary.

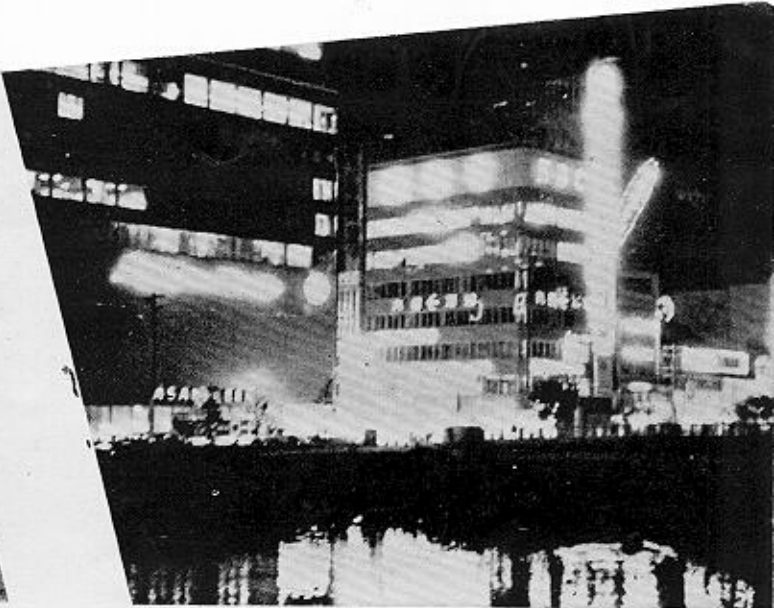
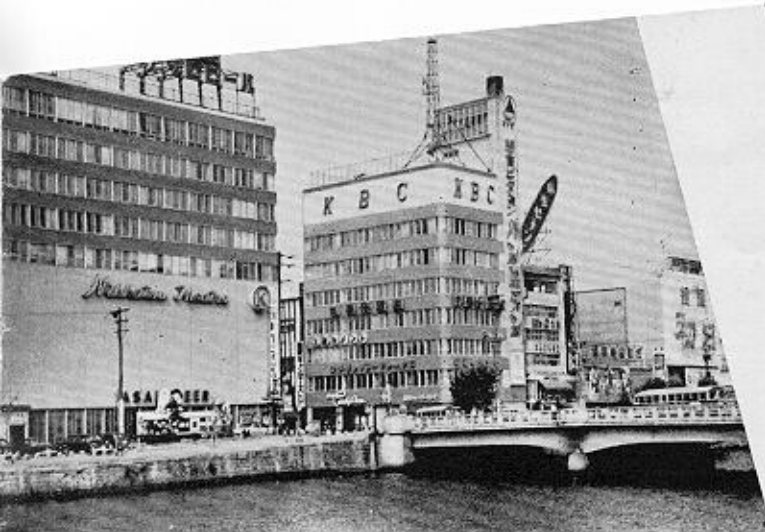
Cost of Living at Itazuke

The cost of living at Itazuke is pleasantly lower in many respects than in the states. Gasoline is 15¢ a gallon, food is approximately 20% to 30% cheaper than it is in stateside markets. For example, top sirloin steak is about 70¢ a pound compared to \$1.35 a pound in the states. Dry cleaning is considerably lower...a woman's wool coat may be cleaned and pressed for 80¢, a suit cleaned and pressed for 75¢ and a man's shirt laundered for 20¢.

Rent is slightly higher than stateside rents when including the cost of utilities such as electricity, cooking and heating fuel. Rent, alone, is lower but utilities are higher than in the states. For heating and cooking the exorbitant cost out-weighs the convenience and dependability. Electric rates are not like the American system. The rate is 10 yen(3¢) per KWH, and the rate per KWH increases with the amount of electricity used.

The salaries for maids are within almost everyone's reach. The average wage of housemaids at Itazuke is about 8,000 yen or \$22 a month. They may be paid more or less, according to the hours worked and special talents such as cooking and sewing.

\$	14.58
\$	00.14
\$	00.18
\$	00.12
\$	00.12
\$	00.41
\$	00.09
\$	00.15
\$	00.10
\$	00.09
\$	00.19
\$	00.19
\$	00.44
\$	00.44
\$	00.27
\$	00.92
\$	00.82
\$	00.88
\$	01.68
\$	00.16
\$	00.44
\$	00.44
\$	00.94
\$	00.78
\$	00.95
\$	01.47
\$	00.50

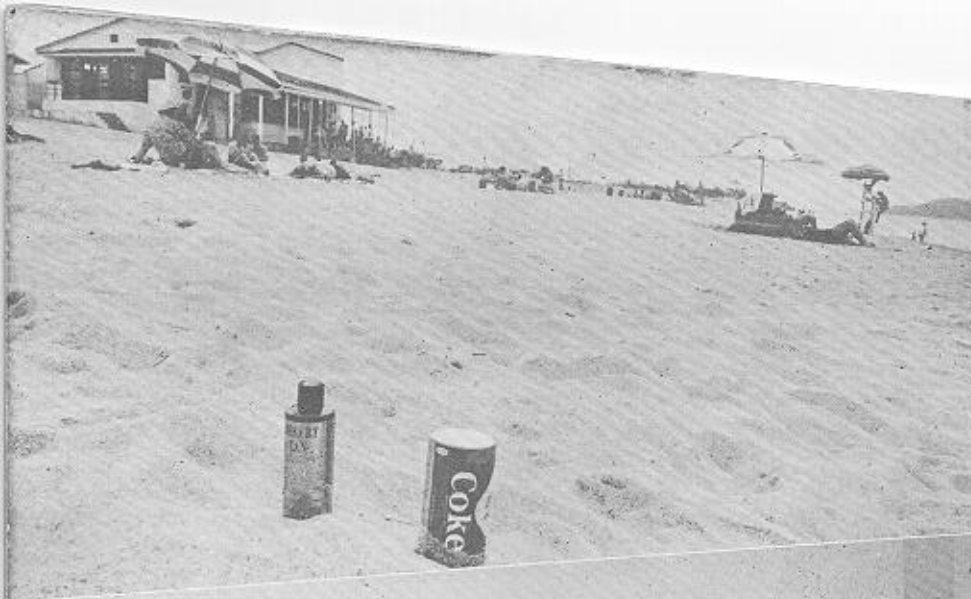


Downtown Fukuoka is an interesting spectacle day or night

Glimpse of Fukuoka

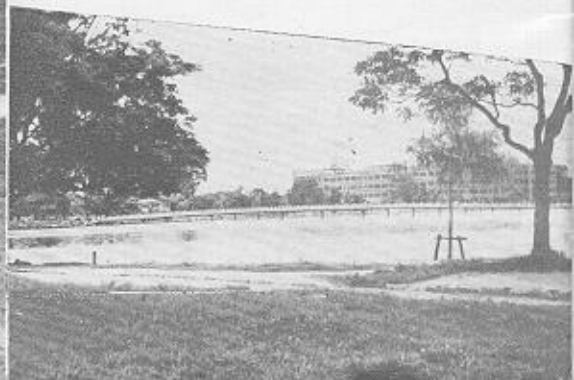
Fukuoka, the metropolitan hub of Kyushu, is a 20-minute drive from Itazuke. The island of Kyushu is the southernmost island of Japan and is known as a tourists' paradise, drawing visitors not only from within the country but the Orient. Fukuoka, sometimes called Hakata, is about an 18-hour ride by train and a three and a half hour flight from Tokyo. It is the island's center of politics, economics,

culture and communication, and abounds, in historical and romantic sites. The first Hakata doll was made in Fukuoka in 1596 and the tiny factory where these famous dolls are made is an interesting place to visit today. Dazaifu, a 10-minute drive from Area #1, is one of Japan's most picturesque shrines, where thousands come each spring to view the plum blossoms.



Tourist

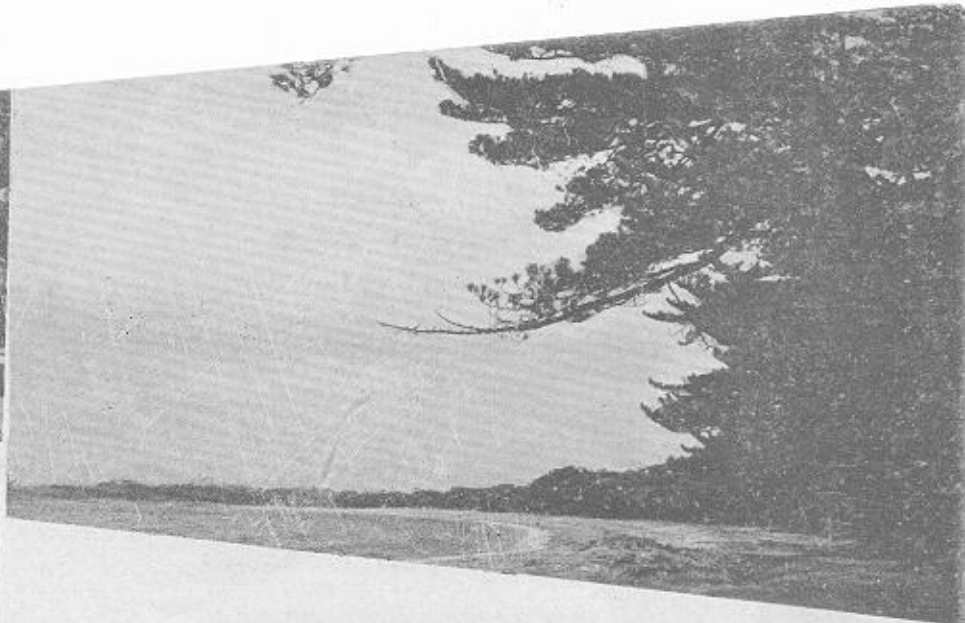
- ☆ Dazaifu Shrine
- ☆ Ohori Park
- ☆ Hakata Doil Factory
- ☆ Heiwa-dai Stadium





Attractions

- ☆ Brady Beach
- ☆ Futsukaichi Spa
- ☆ Higashi Park
- ☆ Shikanoshima Aquarium



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