

small babies + children on the
lower back + held there by
a wide rather thick band
about 20 inch or more wide then
over baby to the front of mother
then the ties cross + go back
under the baby's buttox +
back to front + tied. If it cold
a blanket over baby + held
in front of mother by safety pin
or ~~under~~ ^{under} her arm pits. They can
adjust this all by themselves
by leaning over front boards.

We are in first class Cabin
with 4 bunks but with out
other occupants, Ladies toilet
has a western fixture, does not
flush very well.

After going thru immigration (not
bad) Maurice had used a red pen which
had not impressed on duplicate copy so had
to do it all over again. Left ship and

a few blocks to RR station. Bought
ticket to Matsue. So instead of staying
in Shimodaira we would go on
to Matsue the same day as lunching
Lunch in station, train leaving at 12:06
A local train, seats not very comfortable
but clean. 6 1/2 hours on train! Train
travels along the coast line of the Sea
of Japan, a rugged coast & many tunnels
thru hills that go right down to the sea.
When ever there is a level spot a
few houses, cemetery & veg. planted.
Very rugged terrain with wild azaleas
cherry trees, small orange trees & bobbs. Lots
of trees on the land side of the train.
Rather cold & raining almost all the
way. Arrived in Matsue on time 6:35
Maurice as usual would find a seat for me
and leave luggage & scout around for a
hotel. So far this has been the least
expensive. Very small with 2 double beds
tiny bath room, no closet for clothes but
clean.

Matrue ~~at~~ May 2, 1987
Urban
Hotel

Drove tired & cold after a fitful night
sleep on boat + 6 1/2 hr on train. So
maurice went out & bought a Japanese
"Mac Donild" bun with chicken pattie &
dough bun! Hot water + tea bag. Maurice
has his Nesle Cafe

After a hot shower to bed at 9. Not enough
blanket, will ask for an other - Slept
until 6 AM. Back to my regular time sched

Wednesday May 2, 1987

By street bus to station for train &
change to local train 1 1/2 in all to
a famous Shinto shrine.

Isumo Taisha. Walk throu the
town to a Tori and throu an
avenue of ancient trees.

Some so old & leaning they have to
be propped up. some there is only
the stump sawed close to the ground
there next to it a very young
sapling to take its place in 50
or 100 years. Soft rain all day!

It really is a beautiful walk
green grass on both sides with
small shrubs & trees, not dense
but thinly spaced. There are about
15 smaller buildings around the
Main Shrine with the big twisted
rope above the top stairs. A
priest is intoning prayers & people
are on their knees & praying. This
is only the outside shrine. The
inner shrine is not open to the
public but can be seen behind
the front shrine. All this is a huge
building of wood almost silver with
edge & weather all open at the front.
The shinto priest wear white kimono
with turquoise. There are
minor men all in white & girls in
white kimonos & red. On a
platform with 5 musicians were two
actors with masks doing a sort of
ritual dance in brocade gowns.

We had left about 10 AM and returned
at 6 PM. A long day, rain + cold.

Maurice changed trousers, checked a big perfume
+ we had a good early dinner + back
to station + hotel.

The Matsue Urban Hotel where
we are staying is not as snug as
the others but comfortable. Maurice
discovered how to turn on the heat
so we are more comfortable. I'm
in bed trying to thaw out. Maurice
is busy doing his laundry in a
coin washer in garage of hotel.

Hope my shoes will be dry by morning
+ bottoms of slacks. We'd ordered
western breakfast the night before
the egg + ham had been cooked the night
before + was served COLD! Toast were
warm. Had to pay for an extra cup
of coffee Maurice off with new friend.

Thursday May 3, 1984 Japanese Independence Day
Maurice had met a young Japanese

Who has a sushi bar & had spent the evening with him. He is to pick us up at 10 AM. Breakfast eggs warm this morning. Mance had a Japanese breakfast. He has a car & we really had a good day seeing many things which would have taken us longer on public transportation. His name is Shuji Mori.

First we went to the Lafayette Hearn Museum & to his home. Then to a very Modern building, Museum Tanaka of art. A rich man's collection of Tea ceremony artifacts. Very beautiful both the collection, the building & the garden. Shuji took us to a very popular place for lunch. I had Soba, buckwheat noodles in hot soup & a couple of shrimp. ~~Local~~ He drove us to the entrance of the Castle & left to pick up his wife & 5 mo. old son. Adorable. She very Matsue Castle.

Shopping center to buy wrapping paper & string to mail books to U.S.

young. They run the sushi bar.

Mamie climbed to the castle & climbed, I half way up & Mamie to the top. Then we wandered down to meet Shinji with his wife & baby. From there we drove Meimei - an Tea lodge. For a tea ceremony.

Actually we were served green tea & 2 small sweets but did not witness the making of the tea.

Kesshoji ^{temple} was the next stop where there are 9 graves of second class Tokugawa each with a gate with a different design & roof style. All this surrounded by tall trees, bamboo, moss very quiet, not many people.

The young mother stayed in the car to feed the baby. After this to a very busy, nice coffee shop on the shore of the Lake Shinji. A very pleasant day. almost 6 o'clock.

Shimane - hon,
Matsue - shi
Iemura - chu 543
Japan

Lake Shinji is a salt water lake.
Takuma Mori, his wife Haruka &
5 mo baby Shuji. address above.

May 5, 1984 Matsue. Nice Sunny Day.
Did not sleep well, cold. After breakfast
To Bank, Dept. Store & bus to the
Eshiro Abe Memorial Museum in
Shimane pref. An hour's ride from
station which is only a short walk from
Hotel Matsue Urban Hotel. I blew up
at Maurice. He is such a shrewdistic?
Male. But calmed down by the time
we arrived at the Paper mill. A
fine new modern building with interest
in display of paper that are made
there & methods of making it. Also
papers, tapa cloths, palm leaf books.
From for see, tub for stuff. And doles
I bought one, & a writing portfolio, a
paper bag. Maurice will send for a
book with picture & samples of paper 75.00
Back at hotel & planning to leave to-morrow

May 5, 1984 Nagoya
Saturday - Bays day, every thing
closed. Couldn't change T. checks. &
not enough money for train fare
to Nagoya. After much talk the hotel
decided to cash one of mine for 50⁰⁰
for less than the going rate - very little.
So off we went leaving at about 9 am.
Good seats. We crossed the Japanese Alps,
from one coast to the other. Many
tunnels, small to large streams along
the tracks, thru small to medium size
communities - forming where land
available. Maurice's blood pressure went
up because I accused him of being
self centered, something I said about
trees in the U.S. not being replanted as
they are here. He almost caused the
surrounding seat occupants to think it
was a family fight. It was Colette & his
father who were selfish. The word
shit was used many times. He calmed
down & we laughed about the effect

He claimed he used to be nice but no more, now just thinks for him self.

"Of course you are nice, otherwise why would you be taking me on this trip?" "Because you have been nice to me." He does feel very bitter about his father & Collette. We had to change at one point & take the

but no reserve seats, so he had to take any empty seat & there were not many. He sat next to a Japanese girl who spoke very good english & in front of me two college age boys one who spoke quite well. They are learning piano tuning for the spokesman father sells pianos & he is to follow in the same business. Nagoya station a bee hive of people. Many who had been to a wedding, the women in kimono, girls in light western clothes & the men in black suits & white satin ties. All having gifts wrapped in