

What's New?

Niihama City

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Missing America's Best Idea

Ed McFadden

Students sometimes ask me what, if anything, I miss about back home. I rub my chin for a moment thinking, before I tell them, in all seriousness, “microbrews and National Parks.” The former I can live without if I must -- after all, too much choice can be just as paralyzing as none at all -- but the latter causes me greater pangs of longing.

And Montana, the state I most recently called home before coming to Japan, boasts not one but two National Parks within its borders: Yellowstone, home to geysers and grizzlies; and Glacier, named after its most obvious feature at the crest of Going-to-the-Sun Road.

When I say “National Parks” what I really mean is wilderness. Those places where you might see more animals than people in a day; where you don't have to contend with traffic or gadgets. (And that definition would exclude Yellowstone most of the year -- at least along the roadways.)

That's not to say that there are not some truly fantastic open spaces, forest lands, and mountain ranges in Japan. There are. And in Ehime we are blessed to have them just outside our door. But the one element that is missing is the wildness. Sure, you can see monkeys or the occasional tanuki just outside Niihama in the hills. There are wild boars and copper pheasants and mamushi (a potentially deadly snake) up there (I've seen them all) but the scale of it all is different. Sure you can wade for hours through sasa grass; but even still, you're never really more than a half an hour's car ride from the closest village or

town.

But there are lots of places in Montana or Alaska or California or Idaho which are vast and hardly anyone knows about because they haven't been designated "National Parks." I'm thinking of the Frank Church Wilderness in Idaho or the Bob Marshall in Montana. In those places you could wander in, get disoriented, and never be heard from again.

When we say to students glibly (or they to us) "America is a big country" the idea of its true vastness sometimes gets lost. You just have to spend thirteen hours driving across Montana on the interstate highway to start to get a sense of this phenomenon. You cross into it from the Dakotas, plowing through endless wheat fields, with only a rural auction or UFO show on the radio, your eyes starting to droop, your foot heavy on the pedal, the car humming along at a hundred miles per hour, and you're not getting anywhere-- ooh there's a house or an antelope-- you turn off the interstate to relieve the intense boredom. A backroad, just as boring, though now heading through rolling hills, another house, a horse, scattered lodgepole pines. Now rolling hills, green, some more scattered trees, the mountains begin piling up and then they just go on and on and on.

One way to get an idea of what I am talking about -- short of going to the time and expense of actually seeing for yourself -- would be to watch the recent Ken Burns PBS documentary *The National Parks*. Subtitled *America's Best Idea*, it chronicles history of the National Park system from its inception in 1864 (none other than Abraham Lincoln signed the preservation of Yosemite in California into law) to the present day.

Now if there were only some Yona Yona Ale available in the local supermarket to have while watching -- oh well, I suppose Yebisu will do.

Ed McFadden currently lives in Niihama, running and hiking the surrounding mountains and hills whenever he can. You can read more by him at his blog: tinyreactors.blogspot.com

You can read on the Web.

***What's New?**

***Garbage and trash Collection Calendar**

***Information living in Niihama**

Click  <http://www.city.niihama.lg.jp/english/>

Clair:*Multilingual Living Information

<http://www.clair.or.jp/tagengorev/en/index.html>

The 22nd Niihama Global Party

“Just One World”

Niihama’s 22nd Global Party was held at Women’s Plaza on February 12 with the theme of “Just One World”. The weather was very fine and very warm, so about 360 guests and organizers from 22 countries took part in the party. The party started with the Japanese drum performance. Participants could also meet people from different culture. On stage there were Indonesian folk music and dance, singing songs, and Mongolian Dance. Traditional Japanese music was performed. Okinawan Folk Dance and Salsa dance were wonderful. People enjoyed Pressed-flower art, Origami, Copper Graftsman-ship, Calligraphy, and wearing Yukata and fold costumes.

The Number of the Participants

| Nationality | Male | Female | Total |
|----------------|-------|--------|-------|
| Canada | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| China | 5 | 7 | 12 |
| Costa Rica | | 1 | 1 |
| Cuba | 1 | | 1 |
| India | 1 | | 1 |
| Indonesia | 15 | 26 | 41 |
| Ireland | 1 | | 1 |
| Jamaica | 1 | | 1 |
| Korea | 1 | | 1 |
| Malaysia | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| Mongolia | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| New Zealand | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Pakistan | 4 | | 4 |
| Peru | 2 | | 2 |
| Philippines | | 1 | 1 |
| Russia | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Singapore | 1 | | 1 |
| Thailand | 1 | | 1 |
| United Kingdom | 1 | | 1 |
| USA | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| Vietnam | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Japan | | 264 | 264 |
| | Total | | 360 |

"Window for Non-Japanese" opened in the City Hall

From Monthly City News, July, 2011

The new counter for non-Japanese in Niihama has been set at Citizens Activity Promotion Section on the 2nd FL in the city hall since last April. Ms.Chou Bunbun, who is a Chinese, can serve as a receptionist as well as a interpreter to help visitors with various procedures.

Day and Time: 13:00 - 17:00 (from Mon. to Fri.)

Language: English and Chinese

Information as listed below is available by free

①Niihama Sightseeing Guide Book (English, Chinese, Korean)

②Niihama City Map

③A GUIDE FOR LIVING IN NIIHAMA } English, Chinese

④What's New?(Monthly Newsletter) }

⑤Niihama Sightseeing Map

⑥Emergency Card on disasters } multiple languages

⑦Precautions against the earthquakes }

For further details: [Tel:65-1218](tel:65-1218) Fax:65-1255

Exploring Restaurants: Western – style

No.6

Big Boy



by Michael Newlin

While this American chain closed years ago, the Japanese version is in Niihama. What is most exciting is that it has an all-you-can-eat salad bar. You can order the soup, salad, and drink bar and return as much as you want. Directions: It is directly across from the Rihga Royal Hotel next to the Aeon Mall (near Uniqlo)

MOVIE

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Shopping Center)

| | | |
|---------------|--|----------------|
| February 17 ~ | IN TIME | English/Dubbed |
| February 18 ~ | EXTREMELY LOUD AND INCREDIBLY CLOSE | English |
| March 1 ~ | HUGO 3D | English/Dubbed |
| March 2 ~ | WAR HORSE 3D | English |
| March 10 ~ | Sharlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows | English |
| March 16 | STARWARS EP1 | English |
| March 16 | THE IRON LADY | English |
| March 17 | PUSS IN BOOTS | Dubbed |

Information Service

Internet: <http://niihama-aeonmall.com>

Tape (24 hrs): 0897-35-3322 (in Japanese)



~ So... You did brush you teeth? Perhaps we should reconsider these charcoal-blended toothbrushes.

<Contributed by **Adam Schartup**>

SGG would welcome any suggestions, questions or ideas for monthly articles. email: yukiko-m@shikoku.ne.jp

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*The editors for this month are K. Shimamura & T. Kashimoto

ONE POINT JAPANESE

いろいろなオノマトペ(Various Onomatopoeia)

A: ^{そつぎょうしき}卒業式はどうでしたか。
Sotsugyo_ shiki wa do_ deshita ka.
(How was the graduation ceremony?)

B: シヤキツとした^{こども}子供の^{すがた}姿を見て、^{おも}思わずうるうるしてしまいました。
Shakitto shita kodomo no sugata o mite, omowazu uruuru shite shimaimashita.
(Tears came to my eyes in spite of myself, when I saw my child standing so straight and proud.)

A: ^こお子さん、^{おお}大きくなりましたね。 Okosan, o_ kiku narimashita ne.
(Your son has gotten big!)

B: ええ、できることもどんどん^ふ増えてきて、^{たの}楽しみです。 Ee, dekiru koto mo dondon fuetekite, tanoshimi desu.
(Yes. The things he can do are increasing rapidly, so it is fun for me.)

A: もうすぐよちよち^{あるき}歩きはじめそうですね。 Mo_ sugu yochiyochi arukihajimeso_ desu ne. (It looks like he will begin to toddle soon.)

B: そうなんですよ。^{いま}今か^{いま}今かと^ま待まっているところです。
So_ nan desu yo. Imakaimaka to matteiru tokoro desu.
(That's right! It could be any minute now.)

A: ^{てんき}ぽかぽかいい天気ですね。
Pokapoka ii tenki desu ne.
(It is nice and warm today.)

B: ええ、^{こころ}心まで^{あるき}うきうきしてくるようです。
Ee, kokoro made ukiuki shite kuru yo_ desu.
(Yes. It makes my heart feel light.)

A: ^{きょう}今日は何か^{なに}予定^{よてい}がありますか。
Kyo_ wa nanika yote_ ga arimasu ka.
(Do you have any plans for today?)

B: ^{べつ}いいえ、別に^{なに}何もありませんよ。
Iie, betsu ni nani mo arimasen yo.
(No, I have nothing particular.)

A: ^{べんとう}じゃ、コンビニでお^か弁当でも^か買^でつて出でかけませんか。
Ja, konbini de obento_ demo katte, dekakemasen ka.
(Well, how about buying lunch at a convenience store and going out somewhere?)

B: ^いいいですね。行き^いましょう！行き^いましょう！ Ii desu ne. Ikimasho! Ikimasho!
(Good idea! Let's go! Let's go!)

< by Niihama Nihongo no Kai >

NNK also provides Japanese lessons for foreigners living in Niihama.

Feel free to contact us at: Tel 0897-34-3025 (Manami Miki).

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