

To Tokyo, with love,

GUY AND THELMA
MAULDIN
KISMET



Thelma and I were excited when we were first approached by Mr. Yoshi Mori and his wife Mari about coming to Tokyo to do a seminar for the Japanese. We were not quite as excited when we found out that the trip was 13 hours nonstop Houston to Tokyo. However, our business first class accommodations and our interest in meeting the Japanese breeders and their dogs, as well as getting to see the countryside, won us over.

We were met at Narita Airport by our hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Mori, and delivered to the Keio Plaza International Hotel in Tokyo. We were on the thirty-fifth floor of the lovely hotel, and had a wonderful view of the city from our hotel windows.

We had been told that the temperature and humidity were identical to Houston's, and we found this to be true.

We had a day to relax and adjust to the time change before we were driven that afternoon to the Mt. Fuji Educational Institute, where the seminar was to be

held. The site was a beautiful setting for a seminar, and the room had all the necessary equipment for videos, overheads, slides, plus a great sound system and graduated seats so that all the participants could see well.

The morning of the seminar we were still on Texas time, so we were awake at 2 a.m. It gets light very early, so we were up by 4 a.m., deciding to go for a walk on the beautiful grounds. We were

The seminar, sponsored by the Tokyo Nishi Sheltie Club, originally started out as a handling and grooming seminar with an estimated 50 attendees. By the time Thelma and I walked into the room for the seminar there were over 100 attendees, and they greeted us with a standing ovation. What a nice surprise. As the program evolved, it became a 2-1/2 hour session on the standard; following lunch there was a one hour slot allo-



Attendees of the seminar

locked in, but we did manage to find a second story window which framed Mt. Fuji beautifully, and it was the only time we saw it when it wasn't mostly obscured by clouds.

cated to puppy selection, socializing, and training. The next session was 2 hours on how to establish a breeding program, which included photos and pedigrees of

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Tokyo, cont.

the Kismet breeding program, and finally, a two hour grooming demonstration. The question Guy was asked the most about grooming was "How do we cut in a neck?" Most of the dogs didn't have enough coat to cut in a neck if anyone wanted to. Guy's answer was always the same "It's easier to breed for neck."

When we finished the first day of

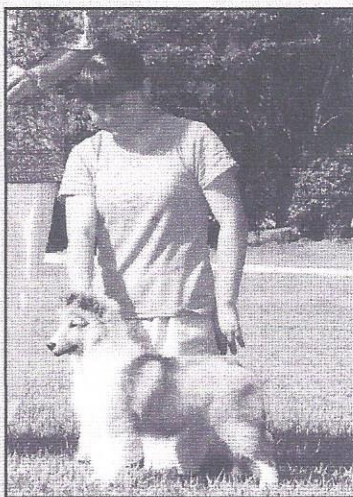


Ch. Japan Tops Mahogany Saturn

the seminar we had about an hour before we were to meet our hosts for dinner. When we walked into the dining room we were again met with enthusiastic applause, and a banquet spread out over several tables with every kind of Japanese food. They kept bringing us all



Ch. Barkley's Fendi Collection



Bach Blackberry

kinds of unusual foods to try, and for the most part, it was delicious.

The second day of the seminar moved out into a meadow on the grounds of the Institute. All of the participants were grooming their entries for the match later in the day, and we circulated among them to answer any questions and help in any way that we could. Three hours passed very quickly.

Following the grooming, we had a one hour session on handling. This included an extensive list of do's and don't's for the ring, and a handling demonstration. Guy then judged the best handler from the participants in the Collie ring.

Following lunch, Thelma judged the Collie match with 40 entrants. Best of Variety went to Ch. Japan Tops Mahogany Saturn. Best Opposite Sex was Ch. Barkley's Fendi Collection.

Following the Collie judging I did an entry of 50 Shelties. Best Puppy went to the 9-12 puppy named Bach Blackberry. Best of Breed was Can. Japan Ch. Barkley's SS Pajero Junior CD, a blue mere male excelling in head detail, outline and movement - an excellent specimen of the breed. This dog could easily finish in the U. S.

My Best Opposite Sex was the essence of femininity, a beautiful blue color with an outstanding head piece. When she entered the ring, my eye immediately was drawn to her. She lost out on rear movement and a shorter (and

scissored) neck. Her name was Ch. Jewel Julian Stylish Princess.

When we finished with the judging, they asked us to meet them back in the lecture hall. When Thelma and I entered the room we received yet another standing ovation. They thanked us for coming, and presented us both with huge bouquets of flowers. Following the closing ceremony we all were requested to adjourn to the front steps of the Institute where group pictures were made. Then they gave us the traditional Japanese salute, a very hearty chant and clapping. The people were very polite and friendly - it was a wonderful experience.

We returned to our hotel room that evening, and were picked up by the Moris the next morning for a day of sightseeing. We drove an hour or so to



Can. Japan Ch. Barkley's SS Pajero Junior CD

Kamakura, which has many ancient temples and gardens. Enroute, we stopped at a well-known sushi bar for lunch. We had tried sushi in the States, but there was no comparison in what we had here. Mari explained that all the ingredients are very fresh, and it was delicious.

Kamakura is called one of Japan's ancient capitals, but this refers only to it's temples and shrines . . . There are hardly any old streets or stores remaining in the city. It is a small town with today's Japan squeezed into it. There are items in it older than any in Tokyo, and other items newer than any in Kyoto. It has hills and the sea, and the atmosphere

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Tokyo, cont.



Ch. Jewel Julian Stylish Princess

varies completely from place to place within it. There aren't many towns in which you can walk around and see aspects of modern day Japan, a mixture of Japan's ancient culture, Asian culture and western culture, all packed into such a small place.

We visited many temples, very holy places where one had to wash one's hands before entering. We saw trees over 1,000 years old - Japanese Black Pine and Yew trees in the lovely gardens, and had tea in a tea house.

Mari convinced us that we should take a rickshaw ride across Kamakura, and somehow Thelma and I squeezed our Texas long legs in - pity the skinny little "driver." We went down some back alleys, and saw the gardens and dogs of the people. We spotted a Corgi, a Papillion, and an Italian Greyhound, and all looked to be very respectable representatives of their breeds.

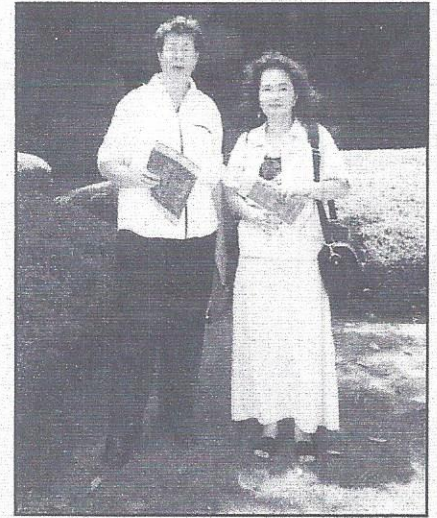
Close to our destination, we ran over something and had a blow out on our rickshaw - not to worry - the driver pulled out his cell phone, and had a replacement there in minutes, just long enough for us to see another shrine.

Our last stop in Kamakura was at the gigantic bronze Buddha. I'm sure everyone has seen pictures of it, but there is just no way to grasp the size of this statue until one is standing before it. It measures 13.35 meters from its base and weighs 121 tons. Awesome.

When we arrived back in Tokyo, our hosts took us to a Japanese restaurant for a wonderful dinner, with lots of unrecognizable (but delicious) dishes. We got lots of practice with chopsticks.

The following day was devoted to more sightseeing of Tokyo. We visited one small portion of the grounds of the Imperial Palace - of course the Palace was nowhere in sight, but it seemed strange to be on the grounds, right in the heart of Tokyo, with tall buildings rising up all around.

Within a 30 mile radius of the Imperial Palace live 28 million people. Space is at a premium. Because of this



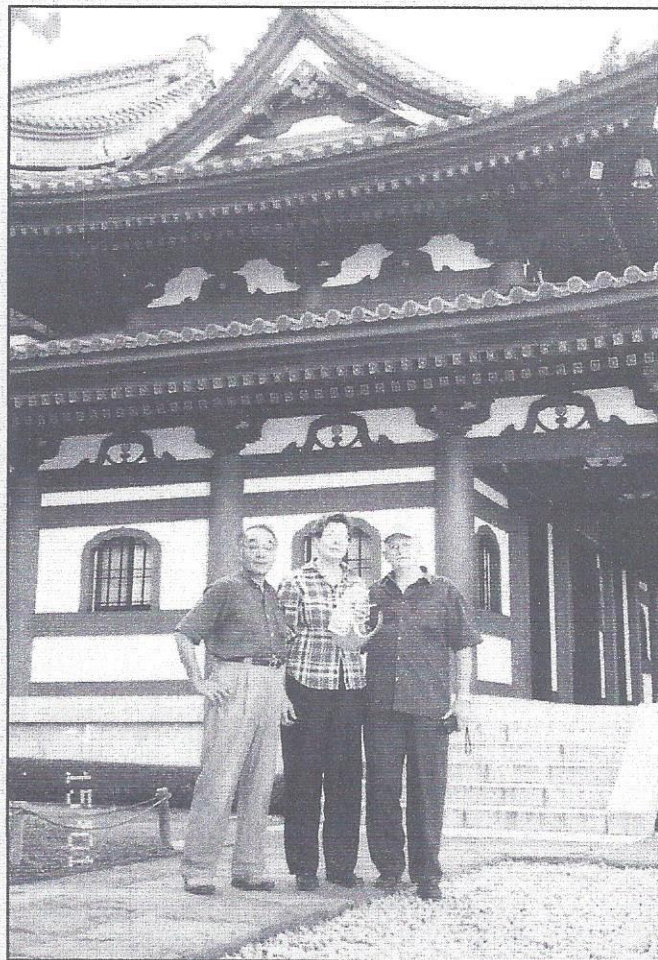
Thelma and Mari Mori

shortage of space, most of the buildings are many stories. There is a flood of bicycles and motorcycles on the streets. Many people walk, and always seem in a hurry. Because they do walk a lot, and eat

only freshly prepared foods, most Japanese people are slender. Just give McDonald's, Wendy's and Burger King a few more years to fatten them up.

On our last night in Tokyo we were invited to dinner at the Mori's home. Yoshi was the chef, and the food was excellent. Dessert was huge black grapes with the most wonderful flavor, and Thelma and I will keep searching until we find something similar at the Asian markets in Houston.

We loved Japan - the people, the food, the history, the culture, the cleanliness of everything - all this, and to get to see some pretty dogs too - what more could one ask? □



Yoshi, Thelma and Guy