



JAPANESE RESTAURANT BRINGS COMMENTS  
Spence, wife and son, Bob, enjoyed Japan's customs

men, this was considered a very progressive step.

The Lions club in Japan is only two years old and there are only six clubs in all. Of these Spence visited the one in Osaka, the second largest city in Japan; the one in the seaport city of Kobe, and the club in Kyoto, the ancient capital of Japan. The language barrier appeared to be of little importance for Spence's humor reached his audience often before his words were interpreted.

"The Japanese people," says Spence, "are ready friends, simple, happy, and love to laugh."

Lions international provided Spence with gold pencils to be presented to the presidents of the various clubs, and Spence took along a large stock of Leader Dog pins to give to all Lions members. He was impressed with the delight the Japanese took in receiving these gifts.

Soon upon the Spences' arrival in Tokyo they experienced an earthquake. They were staying in the Imperial hotel and at 7:30 in the morning, (about 5:30 p.m. here), both Mr. and Mrs. Spence felt their beds being severely shaken.

The shaking completely woke them to see the bedside clock jump up and down and hear the noise of their loudly rattling windows.

In a few moments all the disturbance ceased. What seemed like a lengthy interval turned out to be a three-minute earthquake, a common occurrence in Japan.

One of the most interesting features of the trip and most enjoyable for Mr. and Mrs. Spence was taking part in the Japanese eating customs. Before Bob returned to Korea, the family was entertained for a farewell dinner in a distinguished restaurant by Mr. Ishikawa, the acting district governor of the Lions of Japan.

The room in which they ate contained only one table, about a foot high and everyone sat on the floor before the table on cushions.

The floor on which the Spences sat was actually a straw mat about four inches thick, which was springy and comfortable. The meal took a long time, for the Japanese encourage conversation during a meal, and after one is through eating, the evening is over.

When the group was ready to leave, the staff of the restaurant appeared in a line at the doorway, bowing deeply, and expressing real gratitude for being allowed to serve their patrons.

In light contrast to the meal above was the dinner the Spences enjoyed at the home of Mrs. Hashimoto, the assistant national director of the Japanese Junior Red Cross. Here they found the home divided into two sections, one part western style and the other part Japanese.

Upon entering, their shoes were left in the vestibule and slippers were donned. Upon entering the Japanese section of the home, the slippers were removed and all walked in stocking feet. It was then the Spences noticed the extremely high polish of the wood floors, which would be marred by any footprint.

Mrs. Hashimoto's mother took immediate delight in escorting Mrs. Spence to her living quarters and dressing her in what the Japanese call the second best formal outfit.

This was the renowned kimono which consisted of two undergarments, which Mrs. Spence felt were far too beautiful to be hidden, and the outer kimono which was truly spectacular in color and design.

When it came time for the dinner, the guests were seated again before a very low table, but this time a sofa and chairs were used. The food was cooked before the guests by the hostess.

Several tiny dishes surrounded the guests, filled with a bit of vegetable, a relish, a fish, and finally the main dish. Another couple which had been invited were cooking their own meal at the opposite side of the table.

The Spences came back to the United States impressed with the Japanese people, their bustling industry, their warm responsiveness, their eagerness to learn, and their unrestrained pleasure in being gracious hosts.

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## Bill Spence Family Entertained in Japan

JOAN SPIEGEL  
Staff Correspondent

It will be a long time before Mr. and Mrs. William Spence, 30523 Greenfield, forget their visit to Japan. Their trip, launched in early May, took them to Japan for three weeks and held a threefold purpose.

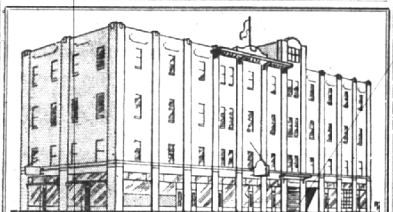
They went not only for a vacation, but also to see their son, Robert, who is stationed with the Army in Korea. And when the plans for the trip became known, Spence became an unofficial goodwill ambassador for Lions International.

Spence is a past district governor of the Lions club and at present is an international counselor. First leg of the journey started from Willow Run airport where Mr. and Mrs. Spence boarded a plane and proceeded by way of the circle route. This route includes stops at Seattle, Anchorage, and tiny Shemya island.

Upon the Spences' arrival in Japan, they were greeted by their son who had gained a 10-day leave, and the family as a group was officially welcomed by the Tokyo Lions club.

The club invited not only Spence but his wife and son to be their

luncheon guests. This was the first time a woman had ever been present at a Lions' function in Japan, and where women are only now beginning to gain an equality with



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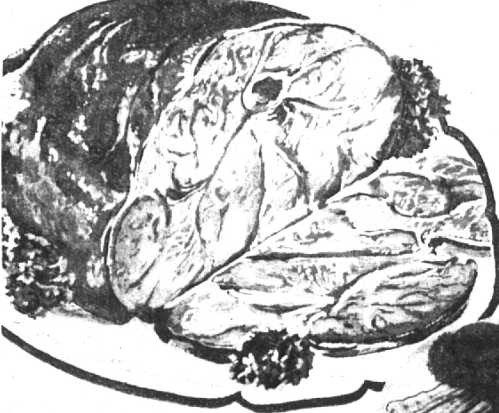
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