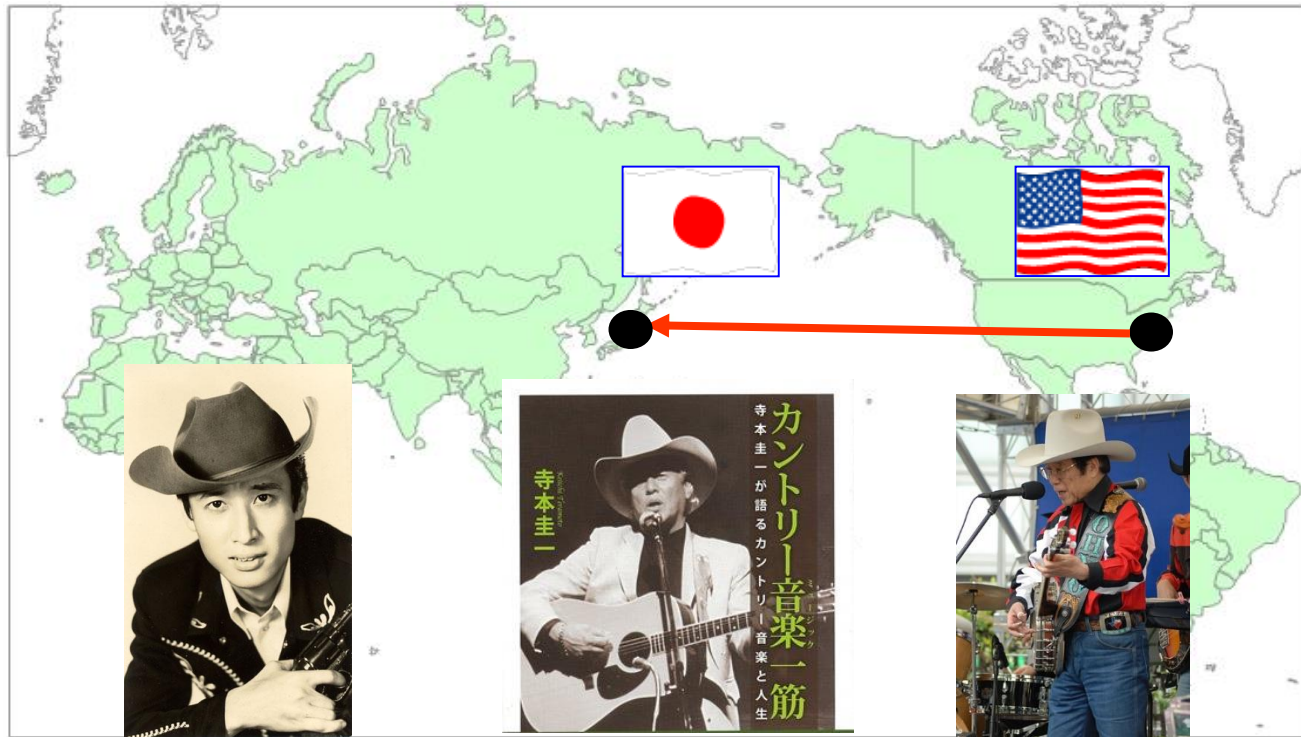


The Golden Era of Country Music in Japan



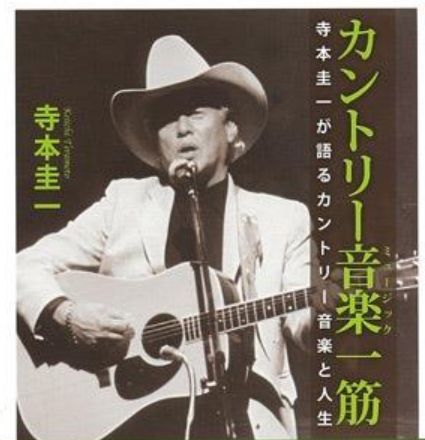
Kenichi Yamaguchi

Toyota, Japan

at Belmont University in Nashville Tennessee on June 1 in 2017

The Golden Era of Country Music in Japan

1. The World War II in the Pacific and Post War Japan
2. Entertainment Business in Occupation Force Camps
3. Spreading of Country Music in Japan
4. Golden Era of Country Music
5. Current State of Country Music in Japan and Conclusion



1. The World War II in the Pacific and Post War Japan

1.1 The World War II in the Pacific

1) Commencement of the World War II in the Pacific

2) During the War – No American Culture

3) End of the World War II in the Pacific

1.2. Post War Japan, Occupied Japan

1) Occupied Japan

2) Spreading of American Culture



日本橋白木屋百貨店のある交差点。左側のビルが八洲ホテル。すぐ右に見える塔は、三越の屋上のものか（昭和20年9月24日）



GHQ専用のアーニー・パイル劇場となった東京宝塚劇場。占領軍関係者は無料で、アメリカから来るさまざまな出し物を楽しんだ。

1.1 The World War II in the Pacific

1) Commencement of the World War II in the Pacific

Visit by Prime Minister Abe to Hawaii 75 years later

The Power of Reconciliation: Address by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe



December 27, 2016, Pearl Harbor



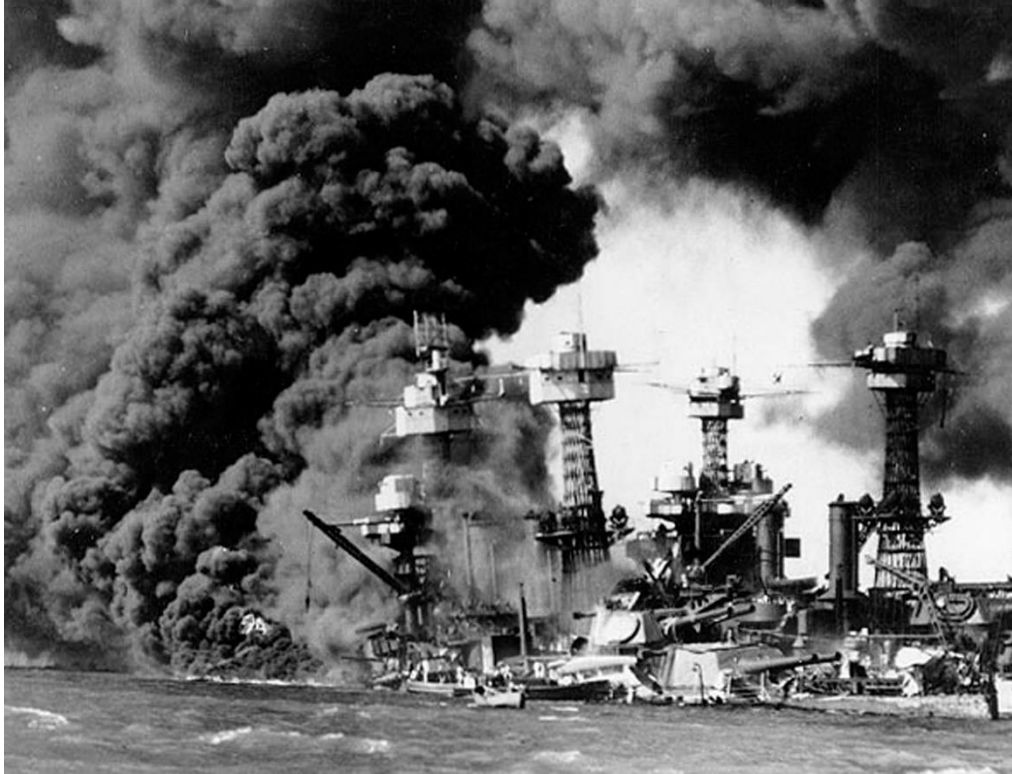
外務省

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Sudden Japanese attack to Pearl Harbor

Commenced on Dec. 7, 1941
by 353 Imperial Japanese fighter Planes

Beginning of the Pacific War



Battleships, Cruisers & Destroyers
Sunk or Damaged
U.S. Aircrafts Destroyed
2,403 Americans killed

2) During World War II

-Controlled American Culture by Japanese Military -

(1) No English Language

No “English” Stage Names

“Dick” Mine	}	三根耕一 (Koichi Mine)
Miss Columbia		松原操 (Misao Matsubara)
Victor Chorus		勝鬨 (Kachidoki)
Columbia Chorus		日畜合唱団 (Nicchiku Gassho-dan)



“Dick” Mine

No Borrowed English Words

Rugby	}	鬪球
Volleyball		排球
Golf		打球 or 芝球
Handball		送球
Ski		雪滑
Skate		氷滑
Record	音盤	



Baseball Game Poster

(2) No American Culture

Issued “Official Weekly Gazette, No.328” on Jan. 28, 1943

Withdrawing American and English Music Records from Music Stores

<Jazz>

“Dinah”, “My Blue Heaven”, Alexander's Ragtime Band

<American Folk Song>

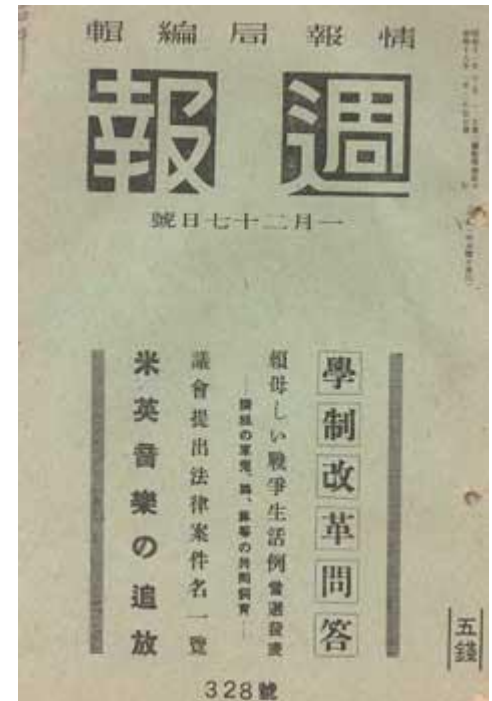
“Yankee Doodle”, “My Old Kentucky Home”,
“Home on the Range”, “Old Black Joe”, “Aloha ‘Oe”

<American Popular Song>

“Get Out and Get Under The Moon”, “St. Louis Blues”
“American Patrol Op.92”, “Sing Me A Song Of Araby”

<British Folk Song>

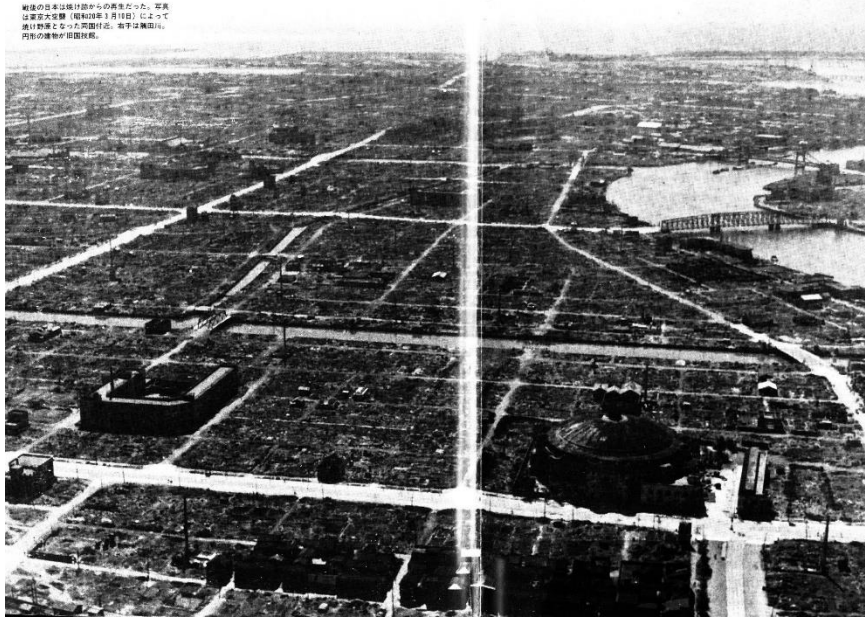
“Londonderry Air”, “Comin' Thro' the Rye”,
“Annie Laurie”



Official Weekly Gazette,
No.328 (Jan. 28, 1943)

3) End of the World War II in the Pacific

Destroyed Japan by Air Raids Burned Out Millions of People



戦後の日本は焼け跡からの再生だった。写真は東京大空襲（昭和20年3月10日）によって焼け跡となった原町付近。数字は機銃痕跡。写影の建物が旧国議館。



日本橋白木屋百貨店のある交差点。左端のビルが八洲ホテル。すぐ右に見える塔は、三越の屋上のものか（昭和20年9月24日）

End of War on Aug. 15, 1945

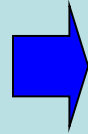


占領軍が東京で撮影したもっとも早い日付の写真。高い位置から撮影されている。左手には焼け残った木造家屋が並ぶ（昭和20年8月30日）

1.2 Post War Japan, Occupied Japan

1.2.1 Occupied Japan

Requisitioned
Buildings
Residences, Lands
Various places in Japan



General Headquarter (GHQ)
Military Bases
Camps
Residences for Officers and Officials



マッカーサー、降り立つ

第1次本土進駐部隊の主力を率い、昭和20年(1945)8月30日、厚木飛行場に降り立った連合国軍最高司令官ダグラス・マッカーサー陸軍元帥。以後、約7年間、日本の最高権力者として統治し、民主化政策へと導いていく(写真提供:毎日新聞社・時事通信フォト)

Aug. 30 Douglas MacArthur



日比谷

Hibiya

上/ GHQ本部が置かれた第一生命ビルから日比谷通り側を望む。お濠端と皇居の一部が見える(1946年10月30日)。下/ 桜田門側から見たGHQ本部の第一生命ビル。現在はまわりに多くのビルが建ち、このビルもDNタワー21となったが、その面影は残っている。

GHQ ← Daiichi Life Insurance

Suddenly “Spaces under Occupation by US Army” Appeared



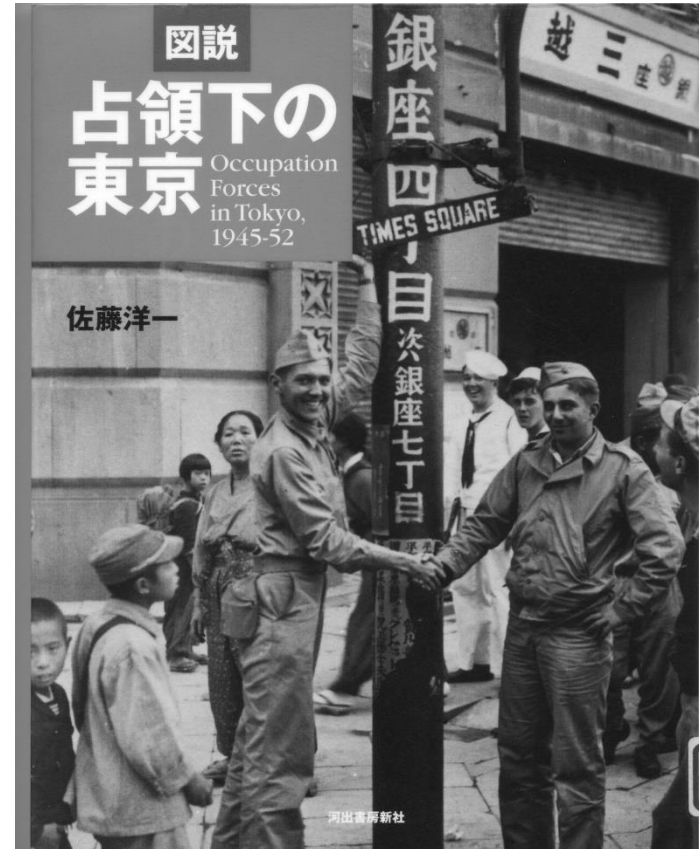
米憲兵隊 (MP) 司令部、法務局となった日比谷帝國生命館。

MP Office ← Teikoku Life Insurance



GHQ専用のアーニー・パイル劇場となった東京宝塚劇場。占領軍関係者は無料で、アメリカから来るさまざまな出し物を楽しんだ。

Ernie Pyle Theater ←
Tokyo Takarazuka Theater



Times Square ← Ginza Street

Y. Sato : *Occupied Tokyo*, Kawade Shobo (2006)

1.2.2 Spreading of American Culture-

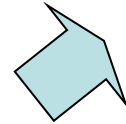
1) English Conversation Boom

●カムカム英会話

占領軍の進駐に合わせる書が出回った。また、「ローマ字の採用が望ましい」とする報告書を発表

▶「ラジオテキスト 英語会話No.2 (1946年3月1日、日本放送出版協会)。「英語会話」は杉山ハリスに代わった講師・平川唯一で1946年2月から51年3月までの月～金曜午後6時から放送された15分の番組。「証城寺の狸囃子」のメロディーに乗った「カム・カム・エプリボディ」のテーマソングから「カムカム英会話」と呼ばれた

▶「ラジオテキスト・実用英語会話第一輯」(1945年10月20日、日本放送出版協会)。講師・杉山ハリス、西内正丸で1945年9月19日から放送。「実用」の書名が、占領の現実を感じさせる



♪Come, Come Everybody♪ by Mr. Hirakawa

Radio Texts of English

for English Conversation

March Issue in 1946(upper)

for Practical English Conversation

Issued in Oct. 1945 (Lower)



Japanese-English Conversation, 11-1946 (Left)

Comic Book in Roman Alphabet, 8-1946 (Right)

▶「ローマジマンガ」(小学館「良い子の友」1946年8月号から)

◀「日米日常会話」(1945年11月1日、西日本新聞社)

▼1945年9～10月の英語通訳、英文タイプスト募集新聞広告



Y. Nakano :”War and People No.5”, Asahi Newspaper (1995)

”Occupied Japan, Taken Photo by US Force”, Kawade Shobo (1995)

2) Radio Broadcasting from AFRS (Armed Force Radio Service)

Networked in Japan through Radio Stations

WVTR (Tokyo) 1945-
WVTQ (Osaka) 1945-
WVTC (Nagoya) 1946-
WLKI (Fukuoka) 1946-
etc



Radio Station of WVTR

”Occupied Japan, Taken Photo by US Force”,
Kawade Shobo (1995)

Aired **Music** = Role of Lubricants to Smooth Racial Exchange,
Overcoming Walls of Language and Culture

<**Jazz**>

Jazz
Popular Music, Dance Music
Latin, Chanson
Country & Western Music

·
·



2. Entertainment Business in Occupation Force Camps

2.1 Entertainments in Clubs of Occupation Force Camps

2.2 Entertainments by Japanese in Clubs

2.3 Japanese Musicians and Singers, Later Became Famous, Performed in Occupation Force Clubs

2.4 Country Music Entertainments



カマボコ兵舎（横浜市内）[写真 2]

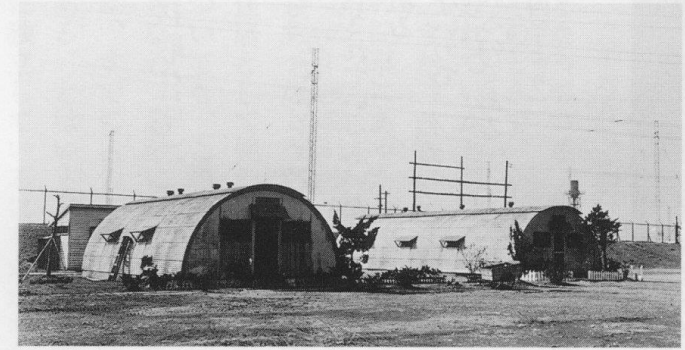


カマボコ兵舎内での演奏風景（1950年代初頭、横浜市内）[写真 5]

2.1 Entertainments in Clubs of Occupation Force Camps

Quonset Huts

OC (Officer's Club)
 Sea Men's Club
 Air Men's Club
 NCO (Non Commissioned Club)
 EM (Enlisted Club)
 CC (Civilian Club)



かまぼこ形兵舎は、施工容易なこと
 からさまざまなところに作られてい
 る。写真は晴海のトランスミッタ
 ー・アイランド (昭和29年3月15日)

同じく、巣鴨プリズンの
 クラブで行われたマジッ
 クショー (昭和21年11
 月11日)

巣鴨プリズンにできた下士官クラブ。かまぼこ形
 兵舎はバーやクラブ、ダンスフロアなどとしても
 使われた (昭和21年11月11日)



カマボコ兵舎内での演奏風景 (1950年代初頭, 横浜市内) [写真5]

2.2 Entertainments by Japanese in Clubs

Light Music, Classical Music, Magic, Acrobatics,
Judo, Karate, Flower Arrangement, etc

2.3 Japanese Musicians and Singers, Later Became Famous, Performed in Occupation Force Clubs

Popular Music Singer

Izumi Yukimura, Chiemi Eri, Peggy Hayama, Yoshiko Ishii, Kazuko Matsuo

Jazz Player

Yuzuru Sera, Hidehiko Matsumoto, George Kawaguchi, Toshio Oida,
Hidehiko Matsumoto, Shungo Sawada,

Band Leader

Smiley Ohara, Nobuo Hara,

Music Production President

Nabe-Pro (Shin and Misa Watanabe) Hori-Pro (Takeo Hori)



Tennessee Waltz by Chiemi Eri

2.4 Country Music Entertainments

To Meet Taste in
Country Music for GIs

A. Changing to Country Music Bands
from Hawaiians Bands, Jazz Bands
B. College Bands

1947 Wild Geese (Student Band in Kyoto)
1948 Western Ramblers by Hiroshi Toyama
1949 Chuck Wagon Boys
B. Kuroda, T. Ihara, H. Sogabe et al.

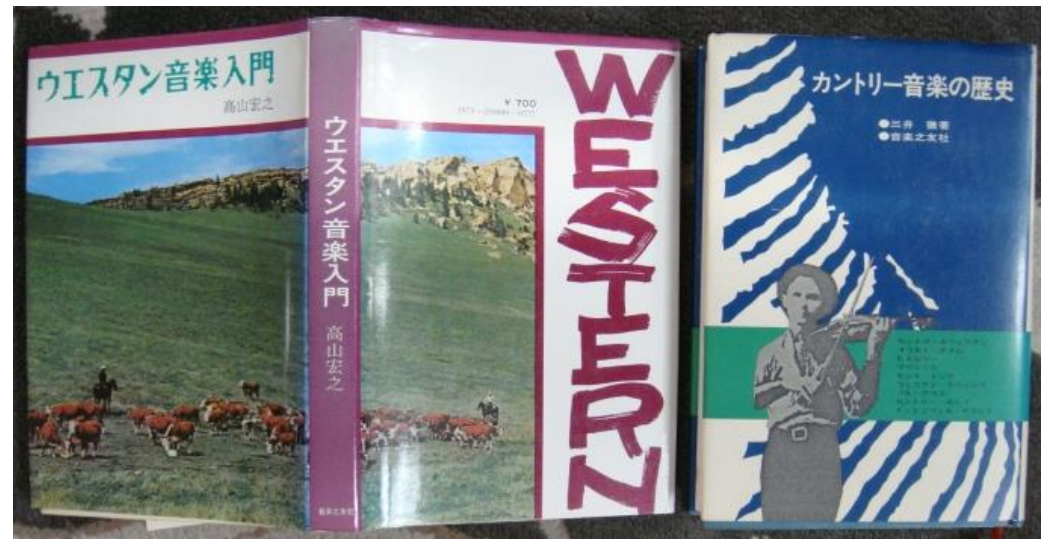
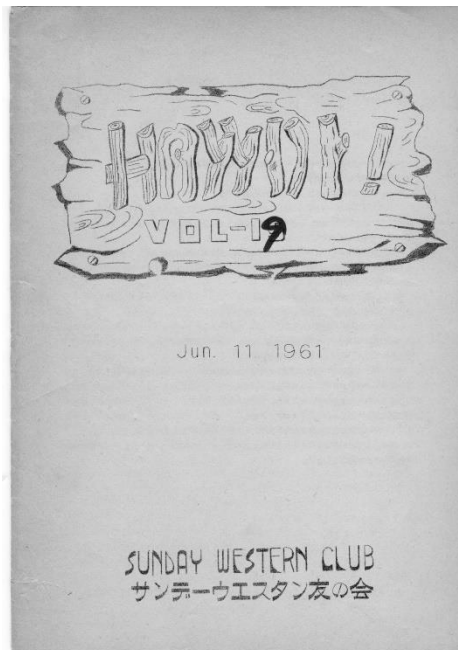
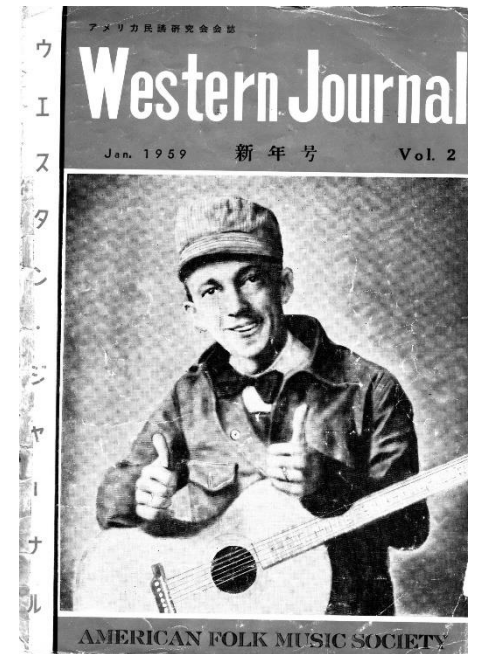
1951 Wagon Masters M. Harada, T. Hori, K. Kosaka, K. Teramoto et al.
1955 Tomi Fujiyama
1957 Takeo Hori, Keiichi Teramoto & Swing West
1957 Jimmie Tokita & Mtn Playboys
1960 Yoshio Ohno & Country Mates

Sang in US Army Camp First, then Became Famous in Japan
Kazuya Kosaka, Jimmie Tokita, Yoshio Ohno, Keiichi Teramoto,
Charlie Nagatani et al.

Mamoru Touya ; **From Shinchu-gun Clubs to Japanese Popular Music, Misuzu Shobo(2005)**
Toshiyuki Tsuda; MA Thesis(2006) Michael Furmannovski (2006) ,

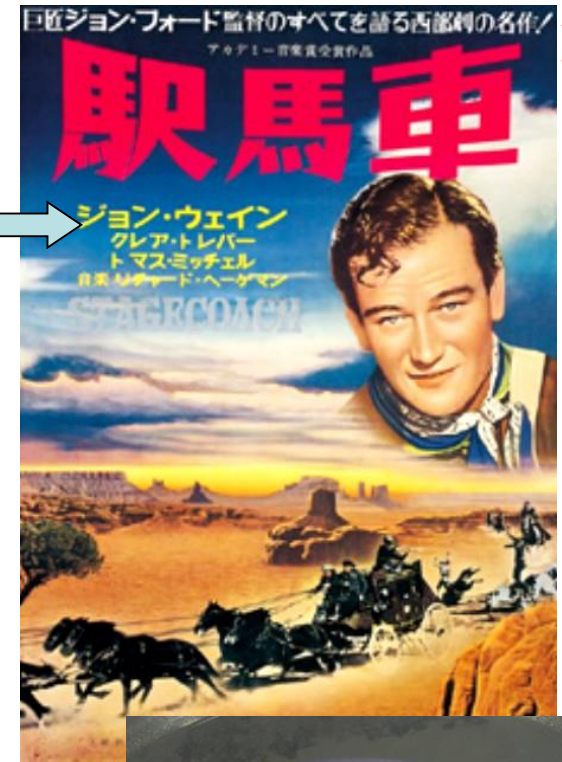
3. Spreading of Country Music in Japan

- 1) Western Movies and Country Music
- 2) Country Music Radio Programs
- 3) Country Music Societies and Record Concerts
- 4) Country Music Magazines
- 5) Importing Country Records
- 6) Musical Instruments
- 7) Release of Country Records



1) Western Movies and Country Music

- | <Movie> | <Theme song> |
|--|--------------|
| (1940) Stage Coach / “Burry Me Not on Lone Prairie” | |
| 1947 My Darling Clementine / “My Darling Clementine” | |
| 1949 The Paleface / “Buttons & Bows” | |
| 1951 She Wore a Yellow Ribbon / “She Wore a Yellow...” | |
| 1952 High Noon/ “High Noon” | |
| 1953 Shane / “The Call of the Far-away Hills” | |
| 1957 Gun Fight at the OK Corral / “OK Corral” | |
| 1958 The Big Country / “The Big Country” | |

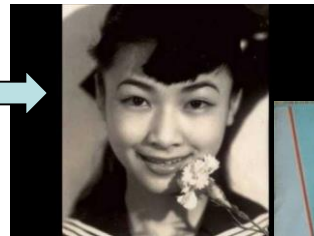


Around 1951 “Golden Era of Western Movies”

“Burry Me Not on Lone Prairie”,

“Buttons & Bows”

by Izumi Yukimura, cute young girl



Country Music Called “**Western Music**”



Jimmie Tokita :
Western Movie Hit Songs

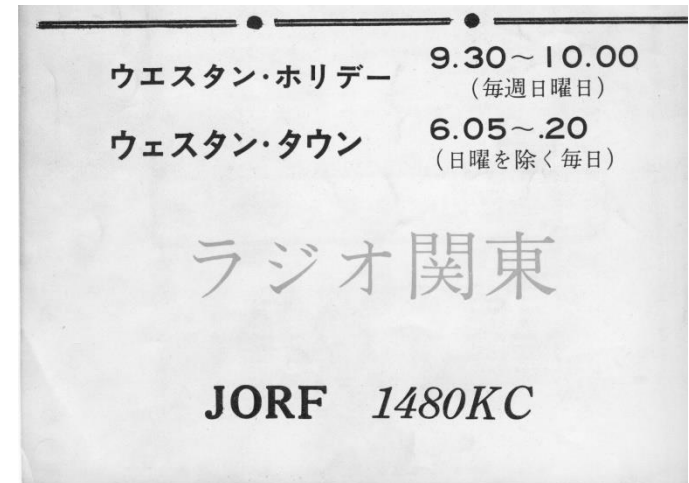
2) Country Music Radio Programs

1952 WVTR “**Honsyu Hayride**” 11:30-12:00 and 16:00~16:30

1957/Feb. Bunka Broadcast “**Sunday Western**” 15:40-
by Tetsyua Shimamura & Mariko Tanaka
Theme Music w/“Moovin‘ On” by Hank Snow

1958 Radio Kanto “**Western Jamboree**” 18:00-18:10
by Fumio Suzuki,
T/M w/ “Carolina Breakdown” by Don Gibson

1961 Radio Kanto “**Western Holiday**” 9:30-12:00 on Sun.
“**Western Town**” 6:05-6:20 Everyday w/o on Sun.



Ad of Radio Kanto on Back Cover of
Program of Tokyo Grand Ole Opry in 1961

3) Country Music Societies and Record Concerts

<Music Societies>

- 1952 “Music Life” Club
- 1955 Country & Western Music Society (Tokyo)
- 1954 American Folk Music Society (Osaka) etc

<Monthly Record Concerts>

Tokyo

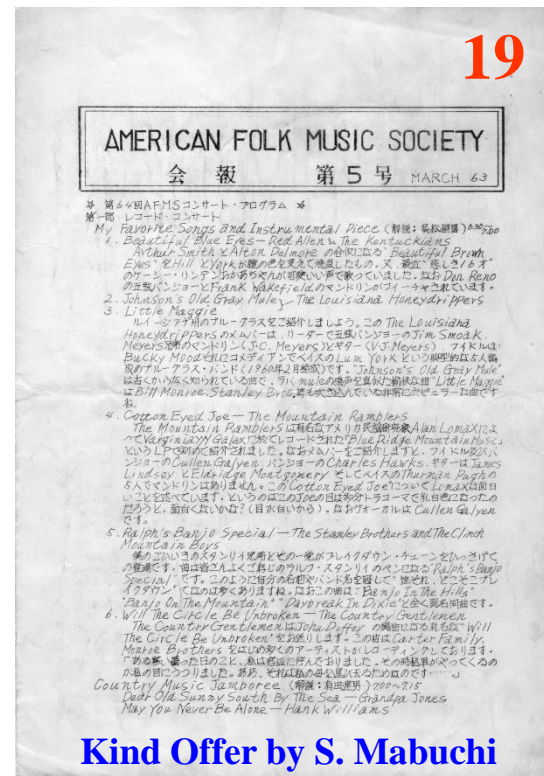
- 1952 “Music Life Friend Club”, Explained by H. Fujii, T. Ihara and K. Yui
- 1955 “Western Music Fun Club

Country & Western Music Society

Osaka

- 1955 “Vertical Cabinet”
- American Folk music Society

Kensuke Sugie; Country & Western, No. 2(1963) p2
 Toshiyuki Tsuda; MA Thesis(2006)



Kind Offer by S. Mabuchi



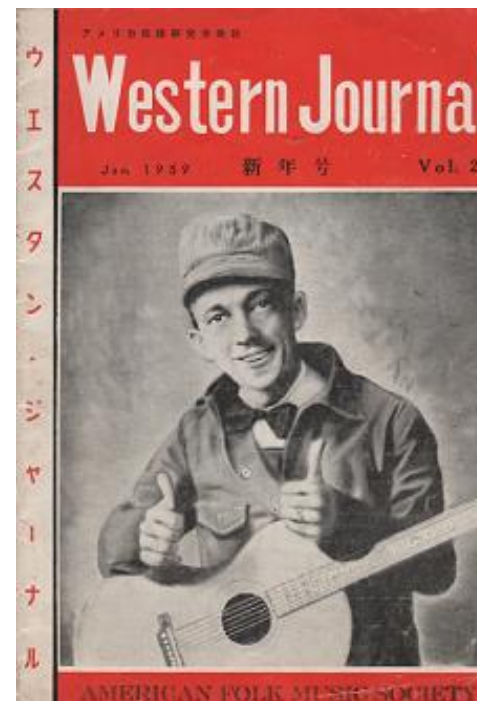
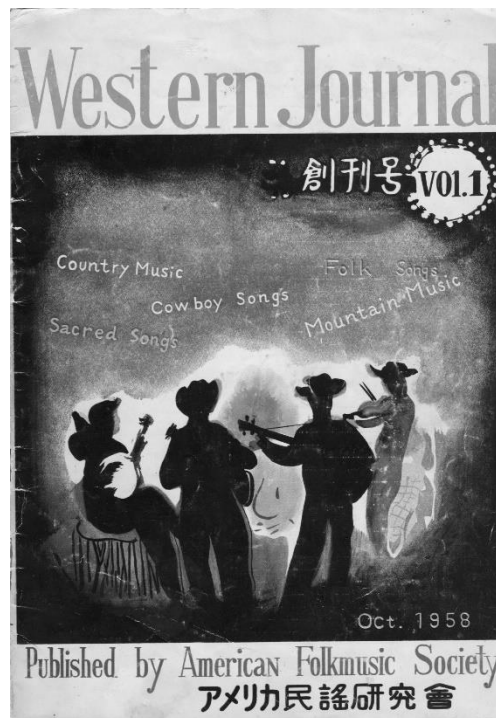
Kind Offer by S. Mabuchi

4) Country Music Magazines

1951 Reissue of “Music Life” Magazine – Country, Hawaiian, Tango etc

1958 “Western Journal” -

ca. 30 Pages Published only 3 Issues



Kind Offer by S. Mabuchi



Cover



COUNTRY & WESTERN 第1号 1963年5月

もくじ

C&Wミュージック 昨日・今日・明日	2
再刊の上りこび	4
C&W音楽を更に多くの人々に	5
お笑い話全二巻	8
A History of C&W Music (第1回)	12
Make Mine Mountain Style	14
本邦C&Wバンドめぐり(その1)	16
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マイクと共に「ワソニー・ホートン」(第1回)	24
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チャップリン・サウンド覚書記 一 (上)	26
Country & Western 恒説談	31

昭和38年4月25日編集
昭和38年5月20日発行
編集発行人 西保幸
東京都品川区中根2-295
EDITED BY TAKASHI SHIMBO

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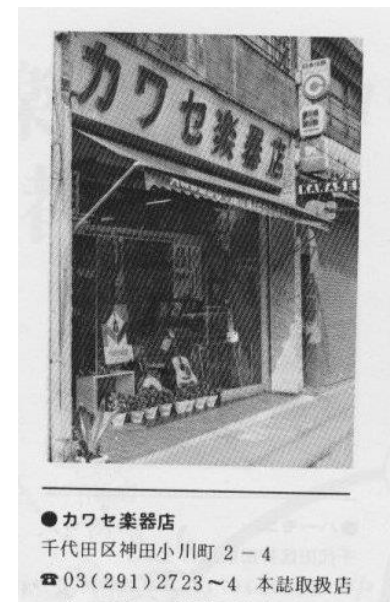
“Country and Western” Magazine, No. 1, Issued in May 1963

Edited by Takashi Shimbo and Masaaki Yoshimura

4) Importing Country Records



5) Musical Instruments



These Shops Located in Student Town, Kanda

4. Golden Era of “Western” (Country) Music

4.1 Live Western Music for Japanese

4.2 Sensation of “Rockabilly” and Authentic Country Music

4.3 3 Japanese “Western” Musicians, Clung to Country Music



4.1 Live Western Music for Japanese

Outbreak of Korean War in 1950

Decreasing Live Performances in Occupation Force Camps

Entertaining Country Music for Japanese People

1) “Jazz Kissa” - Live at Music Café -

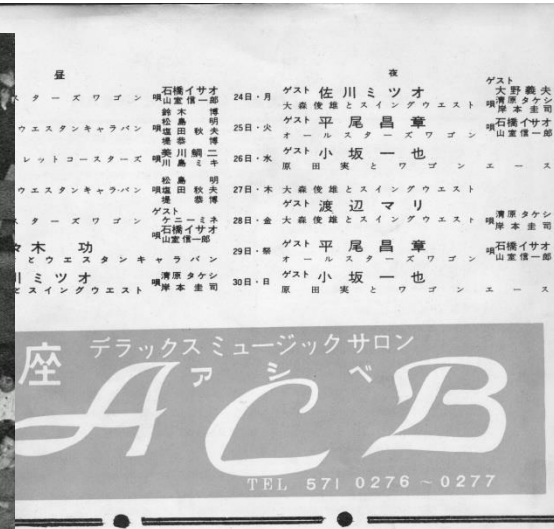
Jazz, Hawaiian, Chanson, **Western (Country)**, Latin and so on

Played at Café Called “Jazz Kissa”

Ginza ; Tennessee, ACB, New Mimatsu, Tact Ikebukuro ; Drum, Swan
Shinjuku ; ACB, La Seine, Opera House Shibuya ; Theatre, Prince
 etc



Ginza ACB in 1959



Live Schedule of ACB on Back Cover of Program of Tokyo Grand Ole Opry



New Mimatsu in 1957

2) “Western Carnival” - Live Country Music Concert-

Western (Country) Musicians Played at Several “**Jazz Kissas**”
Gathered and Started Live Music Concert Called “**Western Carnival**”
at Tokyo Video Hall in 1953



Chuck Wagon Boys



Wagon Masters



Minoru Harada & Wagon Ace

Twice a Year --- Precious Opportunities in Front of Lots of Audience
Raised Gradually in Popularity among Young People
Some Singers in Bands Got Popularity



Kazuya Kosaka



Biji Kuroda



K. Teramoto



Willy Okiyama

Later Big Star in
Different Fields
Hiroshi Moriya
Hiroshi Inoue
Takuya Joe
Mitsuo Sagawa

[Home Page of J. T. Kanehira](#)

4.2 Sensation of “Rockabilly” and Authentic Country Music

1) “Nichi-Geki Western Carnival”

Raised Popularity

Moved to Large Hall ▶ Nichi-Geki

Finished “Western Carnival at 8 times from 1953 to Autumn in 1957



The 1st “Nichi-Geki Western Carnival” on Feb. 8, 1958

Rock ‘n’ Roll + Hillbilly = “Rockabilly”

Great Hit of “Heartbreak Hotel” by E. Presley in 1956 Also Carl Perkins, Gene Vincent



Nichi-Geki, Nippon Theater



Ad of the 1st Nichi-Geki Western Carnival

Created Sensation of “Rockabilly”

Audience of 45,000 for 7 Shows **28**



Rockabilly Singer, Sung Songs Playing Electric Guitar and Shaking Body, Excited Late Teens Girls



From This Stage

- 1) Three Top Rockabilly Star** -----”Keijiro Yamashita, Masaaki Hirao and Mickey Curtiss” & Hisahiko Iida, Kazuya Kosaka, Hiroshi Mizuhara, Kyu Sakamoto, Takuya Joe, Hiroshi Inoue Mitsuo Sagawa, Takeshi Teramoto, Chosuke Ikariya et al. Became Popular Entertainers
- 2) Established Music Culture Like Sensation of “Electric Guitar Sounds” & “Group Sounds”**

2) Authentic Country Music Concert ----“Tokyo Grand Ole Opry”

Radio Program “**Sunday Western**” by Bunka Broadcast, Started in 1957,
Loved and Enlightened Authentic Country & Western Music, away from “Rockabilly”

Gave Concert “**Tokyo Grand Ole Opry**” in 1960

by Fun Club Members of “**Sunday Western**”,

Seiji Wada, Tamotsu Hoshino and Yoshiaki Komma



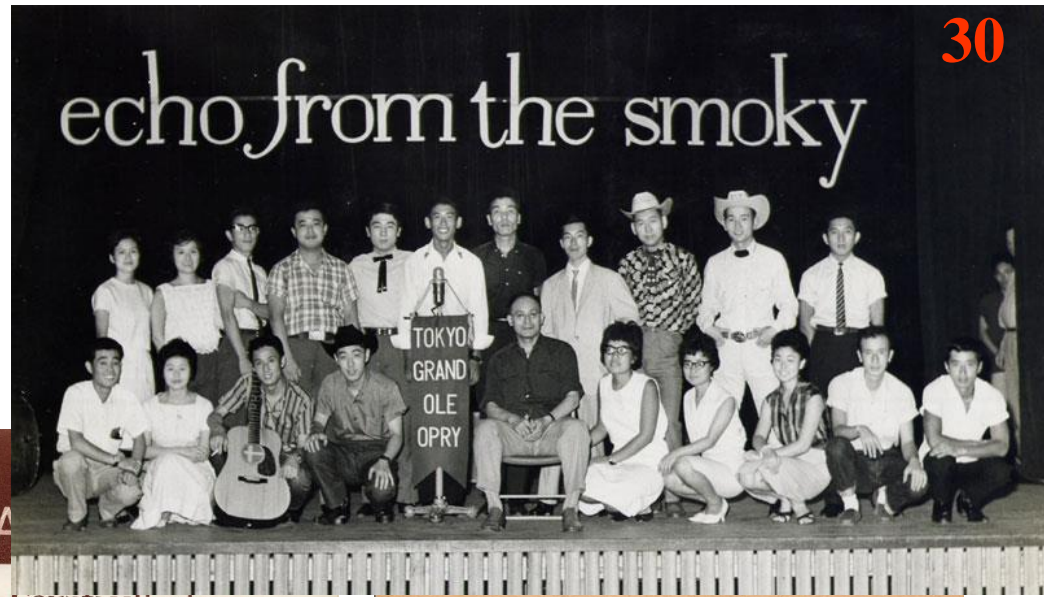
Founders of **Tokyo Grand Ole Opry**



Stage of **Tokyo Grand Ole Opry**

<Regular Performers>

- M. Harada & Wagon Aces
- K. Teramoto & Country Gentlemen
- J. Tokita & Mountain Playboys
- Robert Tainaka & Smoky Rangers
- Biji Kuroda, Yoshio Ohno
- USA Air Force Bands etc



東京グランドオールオプリイ
プログラム
カントリー
アンド
ウェスタン
TOKYO GRAND OLE OPRIY
10月16日
○午後1時 東京ビデオホール
○午後6時
銀座 デラックスミュージックサロン
ACB
TEL: 571 0276 ~ 0277

No.15
TOKYO GRAND OLE OPRIY
Cowboy Songs & Country Hoedown
October 1th 1961 Tokyo Video Hall

〇〇〇 セイクリッド・ソングの位置 〇〇〇

「ナツシュ・ヴィルの人」

島村 鉄也(文化放送)
東芝レコードの二笠芳忠さんが頃々
最近、アメリカ全土に渡る旅を完了して
帰って来られました。二笠さんは会社
ではハワイアンミュージックの担当プ
ロデューサーですが、学生時代の学園
院でウェスタンバンドを組織して盛ん
に活躍された旧いウェスタン・ファン
の1人で「ナツシュ・ブルーボーイズ」
の松平さんの先輩に当たるわけです。
二笠さんは42日間にアメリカを各
んど全面的に廻つて来たので各地
にはそれぞれ1日か2日と云う忙しい旅でしたが、ナツシュヴィルだけは時に一週間に近く滞在して
ウェスタンのムードを充分に味わつた上、土曜日にはグランド・オール・オプリイも見物されたの
みならず、チートアトキスの紹介でそのステージに立ち、「日本からの珍客」として一場の換
移されたそうです。
二笠君がナツシュヴィル滞在中、大切なカメラが盗難に逢つた云う事件がありました。盗んだの
はジブシーらしいと云う事でしたが「はるばる日本から来てくれたオプリイへのお客様に、「ナツ
シュヴィルとはこんな距離の街か」と思われては市民の名前だ」とばかり放送も新聞も警察も一
般市民も、金市を挙げて犯人捜索に努め、吉備前などはシツタ度しに調べ上げられたかとうり品
物は出て来なかつたようですが、二笠君はカメラを無くした痛手よりも、ナツシュヴィルの人の
厚意を知る事が出来た感じがずっと大きいと語つて居ました。
以下二笠君の上座曲の歌々を手細かにお伝へする事にしましょう。(12頁につき)

Kind Offer by S. Mabuchi

我国で最古の歴史と権威を持つ本格的な
カントリー・ウエスタン・ミュージック・ショー

才58回
東京グランド・オール・オプリイ

4月25日(日) P.M. 12時~5時30分
有楽町ビデオ・ホール

出演
寺本圭一とカントリー・ジェントルマン
井上 高とブルーグラス・カワルテット
ロバート対中とスモーキー・レインジャース
原田 英とワゴン・エース
ハンク鳥羽とロウベイング・カウボーイズ
齋藤任弘、桑野英明

12時30分~2時 インカー・カレッジ・ヘイライド・タイム
都内大学生グループ出演

カントリー・ケーパーズ	主催 東京グランド・オール・オプリイ
ファミリーオン・コース	協賛 日本ビクター(株)
カントリー・ガールズ	東芝音楽工業(株)
ブルー・ブライアー・ボーイズ	日本コロムビア(株)
サニー・カントリー	日本グラムフォン(株)
	キング・レコード(株)

(入場券はビデオ・ホール及び都内プレイ・ガイドにて発売中)
入場料 ¥300.-

(来日アーティストのお知らせ)
ロハリー・ベックフォンプが「カーネギー・ホール」に出演する時、いつも「フォーク・
ミュージック界のファースト・レディ」と敬賞している本格的な民謡歌手オプリーが
5月、ピタパタ実演団のプログラムとして来日し、「5月16日(土)19時30分」に有楽町

Program of Tokyo Grand Ole Opry
Held at Tokyo Video Hall Monthly

Invited Great Country Music Stars to Japan

- 1962/Nov. Johnny Cash w/June Carter
 1963/Apr. Ferlin Huskey
 1964/Feb. Hank Snow
 1964/May Little Jimmie Dickens
 1964/May Roy Acuff
 1964/Nov. Marty Robbins
 1965/Oct. Pop & Country (Nashville Sound)
 Chet Atkins, Hank Locklin, Browns, Skeeter Davis et al
 1966/Dec. Sons of Pioneers
 1967/Feb. Buck Owens & Buckaroos
 1967/Mar. Hank Thompson



[Home Page of J. T. Kanehira](#)

4.3 3 Japanese “Western” Musicians, Clung to Country Music

1) Jimmie Tokita

Graduated from University

2) Keiichi Teramoto

Loved Country Music for Their Lifetime

3) Yoshio Ohno



1) Jimmie Tokita

Born in Tokyo in 1936

Joined in Hiroshi Toyama's Western Ramblers,

the First Country Band in Japan, at 15 Years Old in 1951

Formed Student Country Music Band "Western Jolly Boys"

with Yoshio Ohno in 1952

Formed "Mountain Playboys" in 1957 while a Student of Aoyama University

Recorded His First Record in 1962

Produced Lots of Talent ; Chosuke Ikariya, Kiyohiko Ozaki, Takeshi Terauchi et al

Played in the US from 1967 to 1969

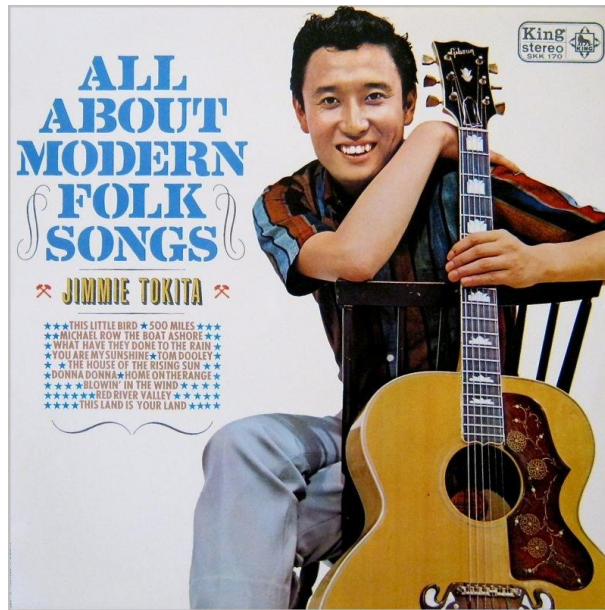
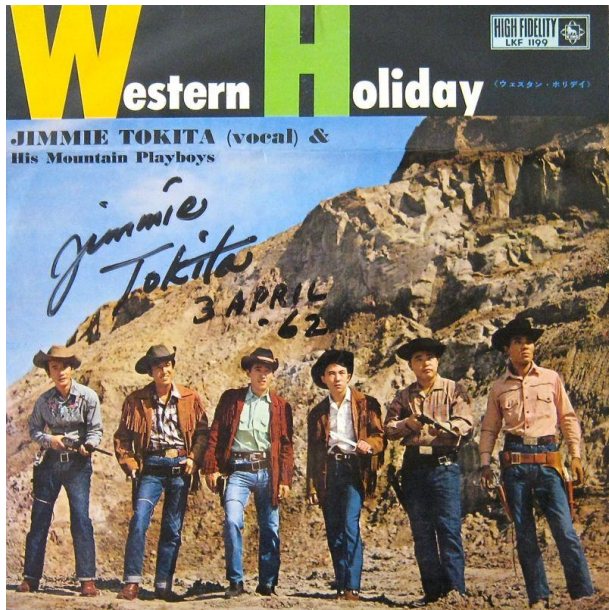
Passed away in 2000



Jimmie Tokita & Mountain Playboys



[Home Page of J. T. Kanehira](#)



Released LP Albums

2) Keiichi Teramoto



Born in Tokyo in 1933

Joined in Chuck Wagon Boys and Wagon Masters

during His College Days, for 8 Years, in Aoyama University

Formed “Swing West” with Takeo Hori,

Famous Founder of Entertainment Production, in 1957

Formed His own Band “Keiichi Teramoto and Country Gentlemen”,

Then “Kelly’s Men”

Awarded “**Distinguished Lifetime Achievement**” from **CMA** in 1991

Reformed His Band “Country Gentlemen” in 1993

Released Book “Straight Line to Country Music” in 2000

The 50th Anniversary Concert for His Country Music Career in 2000

Still Playing and Singing Sometimes



Days in the Band “Swing West” around in 1957



Book Cover of “Straight Line to Country Music” in 2010

3) Yoshio Ohno



Western Jolly Boys in 1952



at Grand Ole Opry on May 26, 1960

Born in Tokyo in 1931

Joined in Hawaiian Band Frankie Frau Boys in 1951

Formed Student Country Music Band “Western Jolly Boys”

with Jimmie Tokita as Freshman of Hosei University in 1952

Joined and Played Banjo in Many Bands ; Country Rangers(1954),

Mountain Boys(1952-55), Sons of Drifters(1957), and Swing West(1957)

Performed at **Grand Ole Opry** as the **First Orientals** on May 7 in 1960

Formed His own Band “Country Mates” in 1960

Celebrated 85 years old in 2016 and Still Performing as “Country Mates”



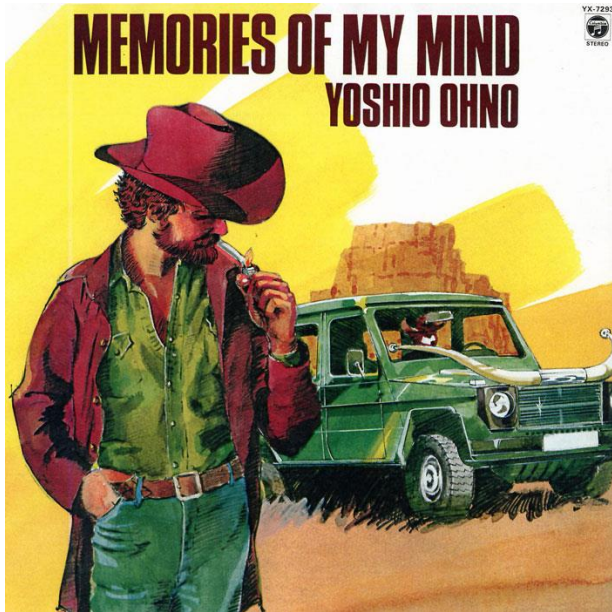
1965



1970



2014



LP Album Released in 1981



2017

with His Band "Country Mates" for over 55 years

5. Current State of Country Music in Japan and Conclusion

5.1 Current State of Country Music in Japan

1) Country Music Festivals

A) Country Gold

3rd Sun. in Oct., since 1989, by **C. Nagatani**

Audience of 20 Thousands thru JPN

Invited : Bill Monroe, H. Thompson, Emmylou Harris, R. Skaggs, Connie Smith, M. Stuart, B. Paisley, Toby Keith et al

B) Country Dream

2nd Sun. in Oct. at Kyoto Since 1988

Organized by **Kenji Nagatomi**



“Country Gold” at Aso, Kumamoto

2) Bluegrass Festivals

Over 20 Bluegrass Festivals a Year in Japan

Annual Takarazuka Bluegrass Festival

The 45th Festival, Aug. 4 – Aug. 7 in 2016 **over 100 Bands** on Stage

Organized by Toshio Watanabe of BOM Service

3) Bluegrass Music Journal, “**MoonShiner**”

Monthly Bluegrass Music Journal

Edited by Sab. Watanabe Inoue

For 34 Years since 1984

40 – 50 Pages



5.2 Conclusion

76 Years, the World War II Ended

Japanese Country Music

Essentially Brought to Japan by Occupation Forces
& AFRS and Developed as Business to Entertain GIs
Founded Basis of Japanese Popular Music from
Stages of Western Music, Influenced by Rockabilly

1) Created Sensation of Electric-Guitar Sounds and
Group Sounds

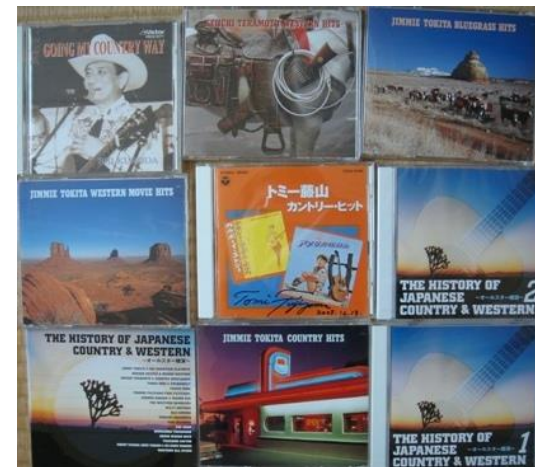
2) Brought up Many Singers, Musicians and Entertainers in Various Fields

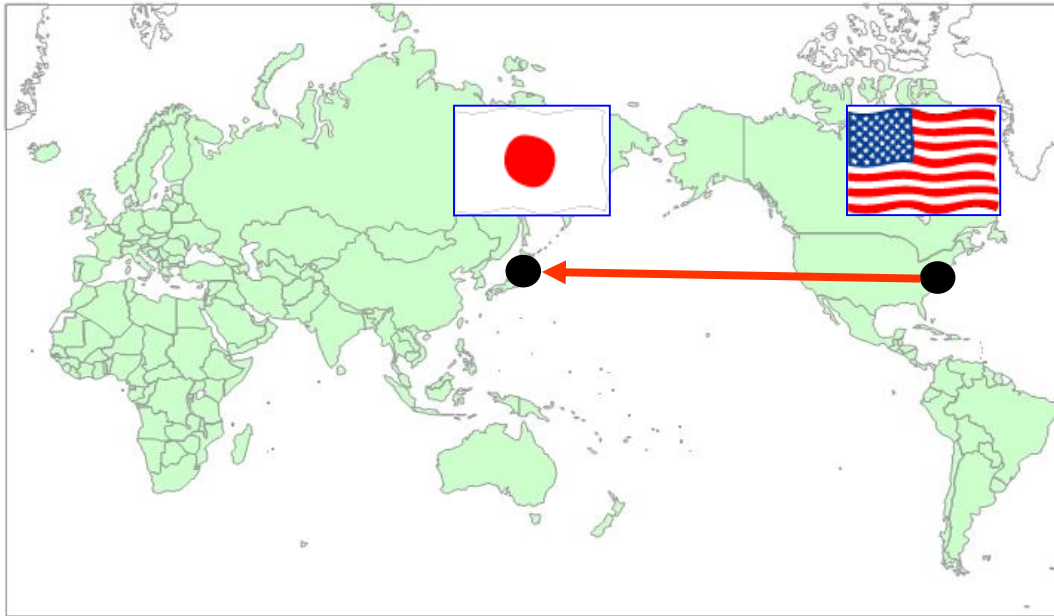
Has Taken Root in Japan by Authentic Japanese Country Singers

Has Been Supported by Enthusiastic and Highly Educated
Country Music Fans Here and There throughout Japan



“Country Dream” at Kyoto





Dedicate my presentation to

The Late Mr. Sadahiro Mabuchi and The Late Mr. Toshiyuki Tsuda

Special Thanks to

Yoshio Ohno and J. T. Kanehira

and Very Special Thank to my wife Junko Yamaguchi

Thank you for your kind attention.

Kenichi Yamaguchi

at Belmont University in Nashville Tennessee on June 1 in 2017