



Our Newly Adopted Hotels

Yoshi and I adopted two more hotels this spring. One was the Mark Hopkins in San Francisco with its impressive view from the famous “Top of the Mark” nightclub and dining room. Above is the ornate entrance of the Mark Hopkins. Above right is the lazy photographer’s snapshot that I took from the “Top of the Mark” as I nibbled an outrageously expensive breakfast and scanned a complimentary copy of *USA Today*. The other adoptee was the Multnomah Hotel in downtown Portland, Oregon, shown below. Actually, I shouldn’t call it the Multnomah. It hasn’t been called that for a while. In the 1990s the Embassy Suites chain refurbished the grand old lady, which was built nearly a hundred years ago, and the place retains an old-fashioned ambiance, but with modern comforts, of course. Our two days there in April were spent in a two-room suite in the middle of the hotel’s three towers. It is quite appropriate for us to have destination

hotels in San Francisco and Portland. We will go back to those charming cities for more lengthy stays, just as we will return to Tokyo, Ikaho and Boston, where other adopted hotels – Century Hyatt, Kishigon and Parker House, respectively – await us. At Kishigon in Yoshi’s Japanese homelands in the central Honshu mountains, we even have our “own” large suite, provided at a very reasonable rate whenever we ask for it. Perhaps this is because I am the author of the inn’s English-language website, which – much to my surprise – has encouraged reservations from Hong Kong and other places where English is spoken. Kishigon’s *okamisan*, Mineko Kishi, is grateful, and Yoshi and I benefit when we come to town. In all cases, the hotels are located near points of interest, often within walking distance. They are not cheap hotels, rather pricey in fact. I couldn’t care less. Am I to reach age 75, as I have, and then stay on vacations at Motel 6’s? Not I, damn it, not I. Life is short.



Prepared by **JACKSON SELLERS**
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