

## HIGAONNA (HIGASHI ONNA) MUSEUM ISHIKAWA 1945-49



THE POSTCARD ABOVE IS THE RESIDENTIAL HOUSE THAT WAS  
CONVERTED TO A MUSEUM AS MENTIONED IN THE ARTICLES THAT FOLLOW

### HIZAONNA MUSEUM WILL OPEN SOON

Lt. W. A. Hanna, of the Military Government, has announced the opening of a small museum at the Hizaonna Military Government Establishment on or about September 17th.

Among the objects on display, will be a collection of pottery and lacquerware salvaged from the ruins of Naha and Shuri, statues from the Buddhist temples and Shinto Shrines and numerous specimens of Japanese and Okinawa art and craft assembled on this Island.

The museum is housed in the former residence of a middle-class Okinawa family and has been completely renovated by native workmen.

Mr. Hanna say that the museum will be open daily, and that a Civil Affairs officer will be on hand.

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“BUZZ” 17TH SEABEE NEWSPAPER  
14 SEPT. 1945 ISSUE

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1949

**MUSEUM ENTRANCE 2-3 YEARS AFTER PHOTO ON  
PREVIOUS PAGE. NOTE THE "PLEASE REMOVE  
SHOES" SIGN IN BOTH PHOTOS**

## **OKINAWA ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE ARTS AND MONUMENTS DEPARTMENT**

On April 5, 1945, Chester W. Nimitz, the Commander in Chief and Fleet Admiral of the United States Navy for the U.S. Pacific Ocean Areas, issued proclamation Number 1, which ended all Japanese administrative authority on Okinawa and initiated United States Military Government administration of the Ryukyus.

### **On August 15, the military government proposed to establish an Okinawan Advisory Council in Higaonna, Ishikawa City.**

The main objective of the establishment of the council was to open a way for discussion between the United States Military Government and Okinawan society. The council created twelve executive departments. **Arts and Monuments was one of them.**

**Willard Hanna, LT. Commander, U.S. Navy (Ph.D. from the University of Michigan 1939) was the supervisor for the Military Government Section of Educational and Cultural Affairs and along with James Watkins, LT. Commander U.S. Navy, (Ph.D from Stanford 1941) worked enthusiastically to protect and promote Okinawan culture and support the Arts and Monuments Department of the Okinawa Advisory Council.**

**Under their supervision, artists were gathered in Higaonna. They also restored a residential house to a museum, organized traditional Ryukyuan dance shows and art exhibitions; and collected cultural assets.**

Soon Art Section was established under Arts and Monuments Department, and many artists were hired as art technical advisors including Shinzan Yamada who was the first artist to be supported at Higaonna. Their work included: human resource development, organizing exhibitions, making Christmas cards, painting local landscape and people's daily life based on requests from the U.S. military personnel.

In 1946, museums were also founded in Ishikawa and Shuri.

In 1948, as the military government was relocated to the south, Arts and Monuments Department was abolished, and artists were released from their responsibilities. They moved to Nishimui, Shuri and constructed their studios and residential houses there, which later became Shuri Art Colony. The artists living in Shuri Art Colony included: Keiichi Yamamoto, Yasutaro Kinjo, Masayoshi Adaniya, Aijun Nadoyama, Kohya Oshiro, Ken Yabu, Seikichi Tamanaha, and Itoku Gushiken.



1945年8月、石川市東恩納に設立された東恩納博物館（当時は沖縄陳列館）と学芸員。後に琉球政府立博物館に統合された

Higaonna Museum (then Okinawa Chinretsukan) and research staff at its establishment in Higaonna, Ishikawa City in August 1945. It was later consolidated into the GRI Museum.

**WILLARD A. HANNA ARCHIVE PHOTOS 1945-46  
RYUKYU AMERICA HISTORICAL RESEARCH SOCIETY**



WILLARD A. HANNA ARCHIVE PHOTOS 1945-46  
RYUKYU AMERICA HISTORICAL RESEARCH SOCIETY





1949

FIRST SHURI BELL

WILLARD A. HANNA ARCHIVE PHOTOS 1945-46  
RYUKYU AMERICA HISTORICAL RESEARCH SOCIETY





1949 WELL AND GARDENS





**1949**  
**SECOND SHURI BELL**





1949

SECOND SHURI BELL



1949

GARDENS BESIDE 2ND BELL

**WILLARD A. HANNA ARCHIVE PHOTOS 1945-46  
RYUKYU AMERICA HISTORICAL RESEARCH SOCIETY**





1949  
GARDENS TO THE RIGHT OF THE MAIN HOUSE



1946  
25TH REPLACEMENT DEPOT PHOTO



**DATED 1946 GI PHOTO  
SMALL HOUSE ATTACHED TO MAIN MUSEUM TO THE RIGHT**



**1946  
25TH REPLACEMENT DEPOT PHOTO**



GOOGLE EARTH IMAGE HIGAONNA MUSEUM TODAY

**WILLARD A. HANNA ARCHIVE PHOTOS 1945-46  
RYUKYU AMERICA HISTORICAL RESEARCH SOCIETY**



**WILLARD A. HANNA ARCHIVE PHOTOS 1945-46  
RYUKYU AMERICA HISTORICAL RESEARCH SOCIETY**







**1949**

**GARDEN AND POND 2-3 YEARS AFTER THE  
PHOTO ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE**



**DATED 1946 GI PHOTO**  
**MUSEUM GARDEN**

WILLARD A. HANNA ARCHIVE PHOTOS 1945-46  
RYUKYU AMERICA HISTORICAL RESEARCH SOCIETY





1949

NOTE CHANGES TO THE ALCOVE FROM PREVIOUS PAGE



1946

NOTE ALCOVE CHANGES  
25TH REPLACEMENT DEPOT PHOTO

WILLARD A. HANNA ARCHIVE PHOTOS 1945-46  
RYUKYU AMERICA HISTORICAL RESEARCH SOCIETY





**1946  
25TH REPLACEMENT DEPOT PHOTO**

### **THE ISHIKAWA-HIGASHIONNA ERA**

In 1945, two officers in the American Navy's military government, Navy Lt. Commander Willard A. Hanna (1911-1993) and Lt. Cdr. James T. Watkins (1907 - 1982), opened a museum in a private house in Ishikawa (now Uruma City) Higashionna to help acquaint American military and civilian personnel with Okinawa's history and culture.

**This facility, with its display of Buddhist images, pottery and lacquer ware, was called The Okinawa Exhibition Hall, and was the seed of everything that came after.** Omine Kaoru (1955 Managing Director Daito Sugar Co.) was the first curator of the Higaonna Museum (Okinawa Exhibition Hall)

Lt. Commander Hanna played a particularly important role in reviving education and culture in immediate postwar Okinawa. Hanna was instrumental in getting the Enkakuji bell returned from the Philippines. He ordered preparation of a textbook of Okinawan history. He formed a theatrical company and gave both moral and tangible support to Okinawan artists. Hanna returned to Okinawa twice after the war, in 1955 and again in 1990.

The Exhibition Hall with its red tile roof was but a simple private house. However, **the yard was refurbished and a temple bell was hung to give the place the air of an Okinawa museum.** When it was later transferred to the control of the civil administration, its name was changed to the Higashionna Village Museum

## **WILLARD A. HANNA**

Willard A. Hanna earned a master's degree from Ohio State University in 1937 and a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in 1939.

He joined the Navy in early 1942 and was assigned to the military's Japanese language school at the University of Colorado and then to a military government program at Columbia University. On April 1, 1945, as a lieutenant commander, he took part in the landings on Okinawa and remained in Okinawa for more than a year, helping to set up schools.

He worked for the State Department for seven years after leaving the Navy, serving in Manila and then Jakarta, Indonesia, where he set up the United States Information Services offices. He ran those offices until 1952, when he was called back to Washington, to attend the National War College. After graduating in 1953 he was assigned to the United States Embassy in Tokyo, where he was an information officer.

In 1954, Mr. Hanna resigned from the State Department and spent the rest of his career working for the American Universities Field Staff

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT AND PROMOTION OF EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS ON OKINAWA IN 1945-46 SEE WILLARD A. HANNA'S REPORT "OKINAWA TEN YEARS LATER" PUBLISHED IN 1955 BY AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES FIELD STAFF.



東恩納博物の創設に尽力したハンナ少佐。1946年

LtCmdr Hanna work to establish Higaonna Musium. 1946

## **JAMES T. WATKINS**

James T. Watkins was born in 1907 in San Francisco. His paternal great grandfather, a famous sea captain, had established the family in California. His mother and father were both physicians. In 1938 he married Elise Gettier, a Smith College alumna, who survives him, as do his brother, Dr. Sherman Watkins, and several nieces and nephews. He died suddenly on September 27, 1982 while in France on vacation.

Before enrolling at Stanford in 1925 Watkins graduated from the San Diego Army and Navy Academy. Having received his A.B. degree from Stanford in 1929, Watkins taught English at a high school in Japan for two years, and subsequently political science at the Central China College for another two years. He then returned to Stanford for graduate study, receiving his A.M. degree in 1934 and his Ph.D. degree in 1941. While retaining an interest in the Far East, Watkins focused on international relations and, more particularly, on international organization, which he considered to be a promising step in establishing a stable and peaceful community of nations. In pursuit of this interest he spent two years at the Graduate Institute of International Studies at Geneva, working on his dissertation on "China and the League of Nations." Prior to receiving his Ph.D. he taught at the University of Chicago (1938-41). From 1941 to 1943 he was on the faculty of Ohio State University.

Watkins' academic career was interrupted between 1943 and 1946 by his service in the U.S. Navy, in which he attained the rank of Lieutenant Commander. After attending the Naval School of Military Government and Administration at Columbia University, he arrived in Okinawa in March 1945 shortly after the invasion of the island had begun. In December 1945 he became Government Officer for the Military Government of the Ryukyus. He devoted himself to his work, which involved preparations for the establishment of an indigenous administrative organization, in the spirit of a patriot who expected from his country adherence to high standards. Jim was always proud of his endeavors during this period and of the friends he had made in Okinawa. Intending to write a monograph on this American experience in military government he amassed a great deal of material, but his intention fell short of fruition because of his untimely death.

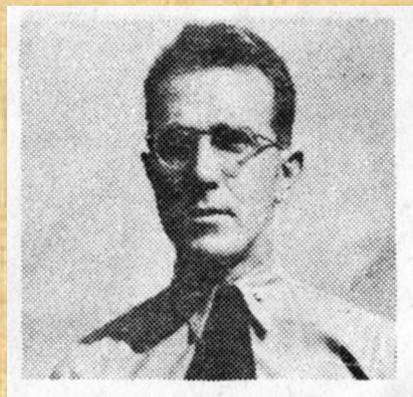
In July 1946, Jim was discharged. On leaving the Navy, he was appointed Assistant Professor at his Alma Mater. He became a full professor in 1953, served as Executive Head of his department from 1950 to 1958, and chaired the International Relations Program from 1947 to 1971. He was a visiting professor at the University of Washington (1948), at the University of Tokyo (1950) and at the University of California at Santa Barbara (1951). He became professor emeritus in 1973.





OKINAWA ADVISORY ASSEMBLY, with *Chiji Shikiya* and *Lt. Comdr. James T. Watkins IV*.

LT. COMMANDER WILLARD A. HANNA'S PHOTO FROM THE BOOK  
OKINAWA MEMORIES  
PUBLISHED IN 1946



H I S T O R I C A L   D A T A   B Y .....  
L t .   C m d r .   H a n n a

LT. COMMANDER HANNA WAS THE SUPERVISOR FOR THE MILITARY  
GOVERNMENT SECTION OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS



**PHOTO OF THE HIGAONNA MUSEUM FROM THE BOOK  
"OKINAWA MEMORIES - NAVAL SUPPLY DEPOT"  
PUBLISHED IN 1946 SHOWING THE TEMPLE BELL.**

**INTERIOR PHOTOS OF THE HIGAONNA MUSEUM FROM THE BOOK  
“OKINAWA MEMORIES NAVAL SUPPLY DEPOT” PUBLISHED IN 1946**



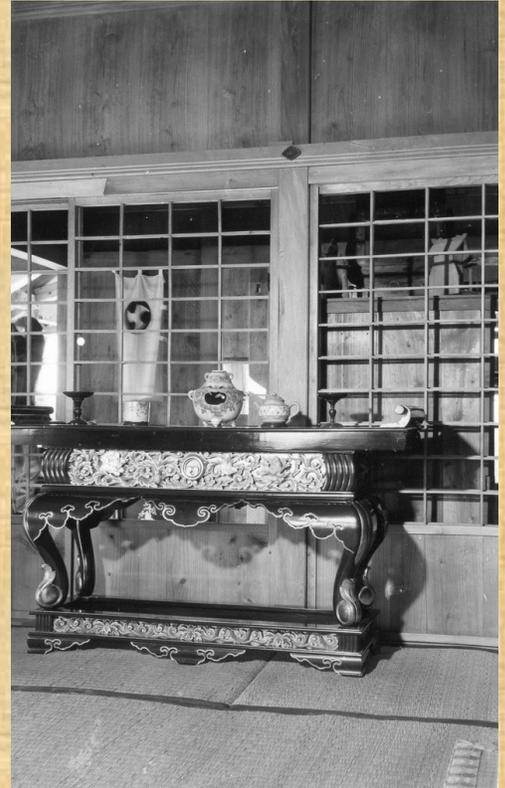


1ST AIR DIVISION OKINAWA  
PUBLISHED IN 1947  
CONTAINS PHOTOS FROM THE HIGAONNA MUSEUM

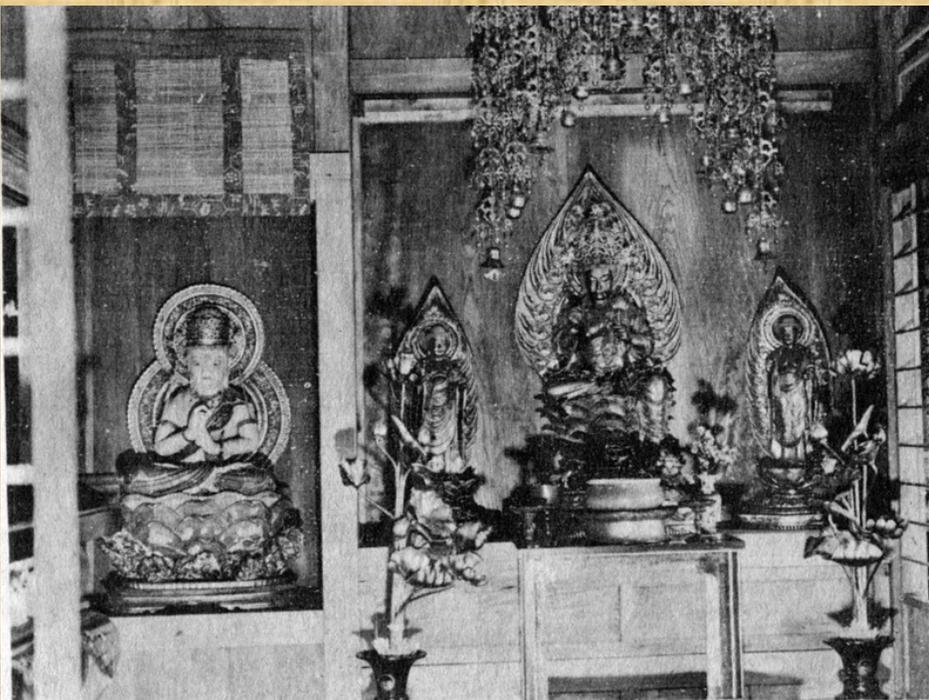
INTERIOR PHOTOS OF THE HIGAONNA MUSEUM FROM THE BOOK  
"1ST AIR DIVISION OKINAWA" PUBLISHED IN 1947



This table, valued at \$1,000 in American money,  
is on display at Ishakawa museum.



DATED 1946 GI PHOTO



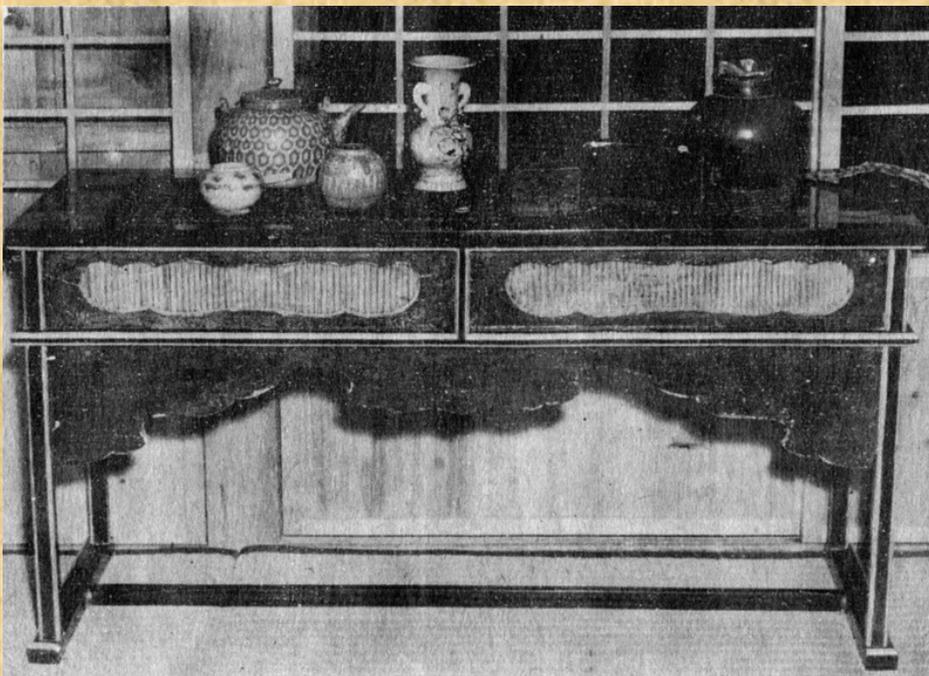
Family idols, usually not as elaborate as these,  
are seen in some Okinawan homes.



DATED 1946 GI PHOTO



Tasteful decorations set off the finely paneled screens.



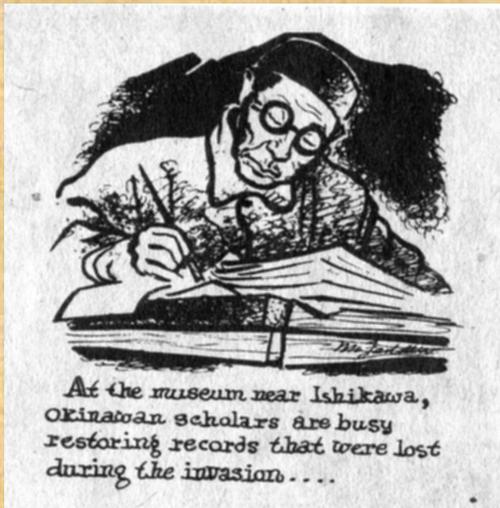
Most ancient tables of this type were destroyed during the battle for Okinawa.



DATED 1946 GI PHOTO



Tapestries, lacquer-ware, and fine pottery can be seen at the Ishikawa museum.



At the museum near Ishikawa, Okinawan scholars are busy restoring records that were lost during the invasion....



# Super-Fort

VOL. 2 NO. 1

OKINAWA

10 NOVEMBER 1945



8TH AIR FORCE SUPER-FORT MAGAZINE FIRST PUBLISHED ON OKINAWA 10 NOV 1945



"...Shrine with flanking disciples, salvaged from the ruins of China temple."

"...Temporary latrine work that shields the shrine from sunlight."



## HOUSE at Western Woman

### MUSEUM OF OKINAWAN CULTURE

In the early days of the Okinawa campaign, G.I. "taggers" went into a native village called Nigahimaru. They didn't know that Nigahimaru meant "Western House," but did they care what they did word meant. They were tired, and had hunger. A squad took shelter from mortar fire in the ruins of a house. Then everything had quieted down, they grabbed out some roof beams that had piled together like broken match sticks and built a fire. The mittens lasted longer warmed up. After plinking their taste that night, they ripped up some of the house floor for platform.

For several months after the infantry had gone, the house at Western House stood as they had left it. Trees, weeds and garden flowers had overgrown the wall and house itself, graciously covering over burnt beams and rotting poles. Now Lieutenant William A. Hama of Allied Military Government found the house in this condition the middle age. Having a plan to show the ruins and art objects he had salvaged from war-torn temples and native houses, Hama dug the house out of the weeds and wreckage. With his fluent command of the Japanese language he directed natives to reconstruct the building, as it had stood before the war when a wealthy farmer lived there with his family.

As the eighteenth of Hama the Exhibition House today, he is confronted with the scenes photographed on this page. While studying the tour Lt. Hama usually discovers that the visitor is interested in Hama himself and the story that lies behind his knowledge of Japanese and Chinese and the ancient culture of those two empires. The Lt. spent much of his early life in China, where he went to school and taught English in Shanghai. His first command of Japanese derives from attendance at the Naval Language School.

BY PFC W.L. MARSHALL  
D. SGT. CHESTER WILKS

After the tour is over Lt. Hama welcomes all G.I.'s to his house at Nigahimaru with the words "Anyone is welcome here as long as they respect our few rules and treat this home as they would their own. One of the main purposes for reconstructing this house was to show the G.I.'s what the Okinawans lived like and to correct the erroneous impressions derived from seeing crowded villages where, out of necessity, the natives have been forced to live."



"...the first rules: shoes off before entering."



"...a goddess with jeweled eyes, plucked out by snoring marauders."



"...single column composed of Chalk, supporting the tiled eaves."



"...a dining and sleeping room combined."



"...soft green, pink and vermilion...the finest piece of lacquerware extant on the island."

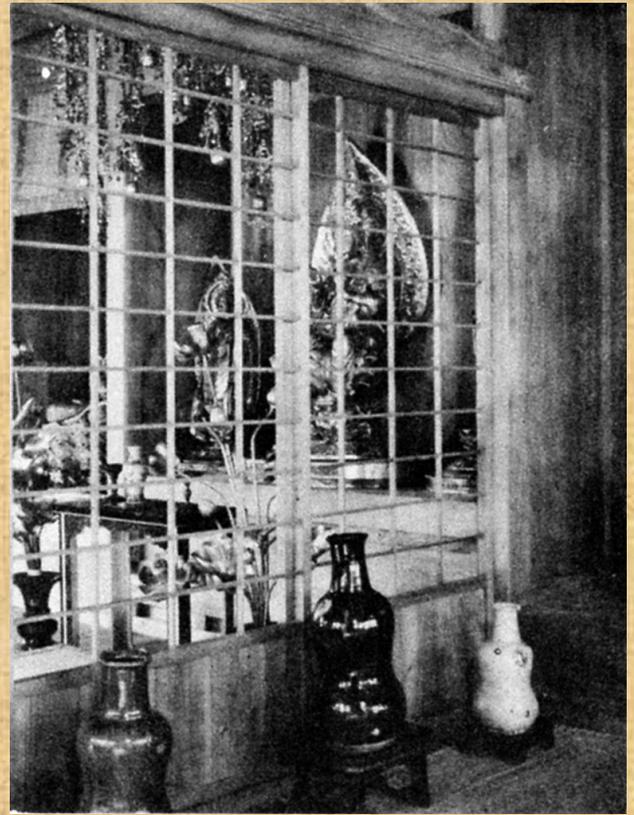
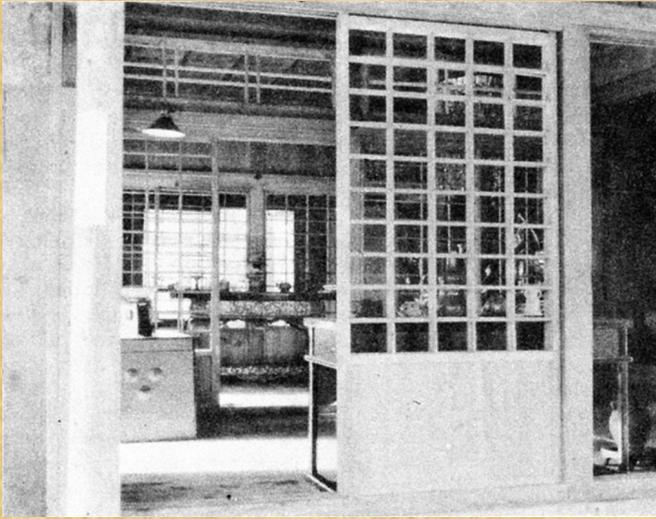
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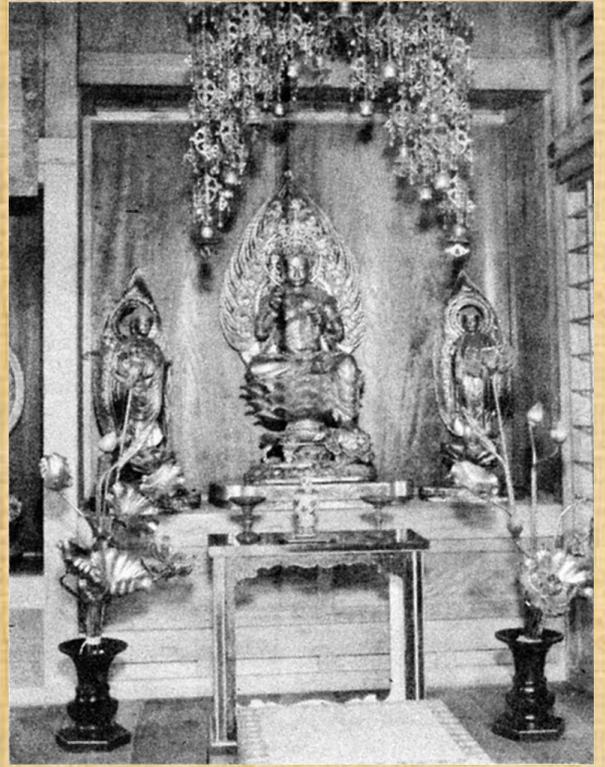
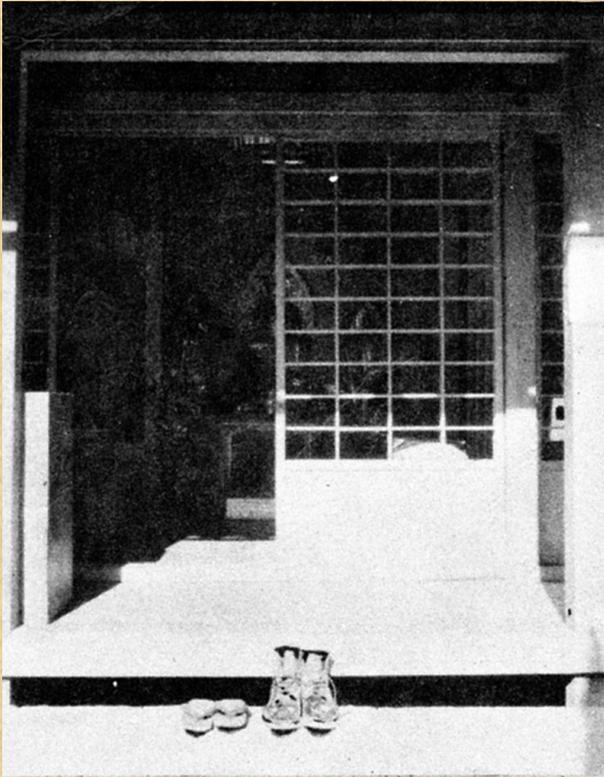
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OKINAWAN MUSEUM: Can be located at the intersection of Routes Nos. 6 and 13. At this point, turn right for two blocks and turn right again to Museum. This is a typical pre-war Okinawan family house of moderate means. The Museum contains many former objects and items of Okinawan culture. A stone wall encloses this area and the entrance is guarded by the Shi Shi, which is the lion that drives away the evil spirits. The serene miniature garden is also typical of pre-war Okinawan family surroundings. It was here that the original compilation of Okinawan history and information was set down by Okinawan scholars and U.S. Navy.

**INFORMATION ABOUT THE MUSEUM FROM 1952 "RYCOM  
SPECIAL SERVICES PRESENTS ISLAND TOURS"**

**NOTE THAT IT MENTIONS BEING IN AN  
"OKINAWAN FAMILY HOUSE"**



