



By Krystal Sato

国際交流員コーナー

CIR's Corner

September 2025 – Issue #40



Hello everyone! "CIR's Corner" is my monthly article about international exchange and cultures around the world. I will introduce a variety of interesting international topics.

This Month's Topic: Let's Go to the Fair!

State fairs are held across America from summer through fall. There are many exciting events, such as agricultural and livestock exhibitions, competitions, rides, carnival games, live music, and food stalls.



My home state's fair, the Washington State Fair, is held every September in the city of Puyallup, which is about a one-hour drive south of Seattle. Washingtonians call it the "Puyallup Fair." Incidentally, "Puyallup" is the name of the Native American tribe that has resided in the area for thousands of years, and people from out of state usually don't know how to pronounce it (It's *pew-AL-up*). The fair started in 1900, and is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year. Every year it attracts over 1 million visitors over a 20-day period, making it one of the largest state fairs in the US. As a child, I went every year on school field trips, and also with family, friends, and neighbors.

When I was very young, my favorite part of the fair was the animals. There is a petting zoo with rabbits, goats, sheep, and other soft and fluffy critters. There are also many baby animals to look at. I remember observing baby chicks hatching from their eggs in an incubator. I also saw a fat mother pig nursing about 10 baby piglets. That really left an impression on me, because I didn't know that it was possible for one animal to have so many offspring! Going to the fair was a valuable experience for a city girl like me to learn about farm animals.



When I got a little older, I became more interested in the rides than the animals. The fair has all the same popular rides as amusement parks, such as the merry-go-round, Ferris wheel, tea cups, and go karts. My favorite was the roller coaster, but I love any ride that is high, fast, and spins around and around. However, most of my family and friends were not thrill seekers, so I usually had to ride alone. (I once forced my brother to ride with me, and he

lost his lunch.) My best friend loved the carnival games most of all, so I always had to wait a long time for her to finish playing before going on rides.

The fair has a \$15 (¥2200) entry fee this year, but this doesn't cover tickets for rides and games; those must be purchased separately. There are ticket booths around the ride area, and fairgoers can purchase tickets in singles or sheets. I looked online for this year's ticket prices, and a sheet of 24 tickets costs \$30 (¥4400), while a sheet of 54 tickets costs \$60 (¥8900). Each ride requires 5 to 8 tickets, so that means, one ride costs around \$6 to \$10 (¥900 to ¥1500 yen).



Like Japanese festivals, state fairs are full of food stalls. Hamburgers, pizza, French fries, hot dogs, corn dogs, and cotton candy are standard fare across the US, but many fairgoers come from far and wide just to try the local specialties.

The Washington State Fair's specialty is Fisher Scones. Fisher, a local flour mill, sold scones at the fair in 1915 in order to promote their flour. The scones were a huge hit, and have been popular ever since. The freshly baked scones are made with locally grown wheat flour, and served with a generous helping of whipped butter and local raspberry jam. I have actually never tried them, because the line is always so long! I'd always get the "elephant ears" instead. They're not literally elephant ears, but are large, fried dough pastries about the size of an A4 sheet of paper, coated in copious amounts of cinnamon sugar. I think they're the second most popular item after the scones.

Contact Information

Ebetsu City Board of Education, Takasago 24-6, Ebetsu, Hokkaido
Tel: 011-381-1049 Fax: 011-382-3434



Fair food. Top left: Fisher scones, top right: elephant ears, bottom left: macaroni and cheese nachos, bottom right: triple cheeseburger

Many Washingtonians have happy memories of the Washington State Fair, but the fairgrounds also have a painful history. On February 19, 1942, following the attack on Pearl Harbor and America's entry into World War II, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066. This order authorized the forced removal of Japanese Americans from their homes and relocation to internment camps. However, the internment camps were not built in time, so Japanese Americans were temporarily held at designated "assembly centers." The fairgrounds in Puyallup were euphemistically named "Camp Harmony," and the barracks that were hastily built there held over 7500 Japanese Americans. They were held there from April 1942 until the Minidoka War Relocation Center was completed in Idaho in September. Today, to ensure that this history is never repeated, the Washington State Fairgrounds features a permanent exhibit called "JACL Remembrance Gallery," which displays a list of all the internees.



From traditional exhibits and attractions to delicious food and local history, you can experience quintessential American culture at the state fair. If you have the chance, be sure to check one out! ★