



Japanese students from St. Louis' sister city of Suwa, Japan, get a demonstration of handcuffs Thursday from Maryland Heights patrol-

man Terry Wiedner. The youths are (from left) Kiichi Iwasaki, Chifuyu Tsuchida, Kooji Yazaki and Masaomi Miyashita.

Renold Ferguson/Post-Dispatch

Japanese Youngsters Visit City

Maryland Heights

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Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Four youngsters from Suwa, Japan, had a glimpse recently into law and order in Maryland Heights.

The boys, ages 12 to 15, were photographed and fingerprinted, handcuffed and taken for a short, noisy ride in a police car. They watched while Officer Terry Wiedner demonstrated moves with a nightstick and then demonstrated a few moves of their own.

Then they met Mayor Larry D. FitzGerald, who had been rehearsing "Welcome to Maryland Heights" in Japanese. After the greeting, FitzGerald wiped his brow, handed out Maryland Heights pins and settled into conversation with the boys about the various sights they had seen.

The boys were part of a group of 19 young people from St. Louis' sister city in Japan who spent last week seeing the sights — the Arch and the riverfront, a Cardinals game, Union Station — and attending picnics, par-

Four stayed with families who live in Maryland Heights.

ties and eating at McDonald's.

The youngsters' stay was sponsored by the St. Louis Children's Choir, which is a member of the Greater St. Louis Arts and Education Council; the Suwa Sister City Committee, and the Japan-America Society of St. Louis.

The youngsters lived with families in the area. The four who toured Maryland Heights' City Hall stayed with families who live in Maryland Heights. The boys were Kooji Yazaki, 12, and Masaomi Miyashita, 13, who were staying with Brenda and Kurt Alber and their two boys; and Chifuyu Tsuchida, 14, and Kiichi Iwasaki, 15, who were living with Lynn and Robert Dornfeld and their five children.

Lynn Dornfeld said she and Kurt Alber had brought the boys to Maryland Heights City Hall on Thursday because they thought the boys would

want to see what a small town City Hall was like. Suwa is a small town outside Tokyo, Dornfeld said.

All 19 youngsters speak English at different levels, Dornfeld said. But she and Kurt Alber both said they were able to communicate with only a little difficulty.

Dornfeld said some of the host parents spoke Japanese fluently. And along with the youngsters came an English teacher from Japan, Hisayoshi Ichikawa.

Ichikawa said the youngsters enjoyed their stay very much. They liked the parties and most of the food. One family put on an entire Thanksgiving celebration to introduce the youngsters to the holiday, Ichikawa said. They enjoyed the turkey. But he said American cakes, cookies and ice cream are much too sweet for their tastes.

Dornfeld said a group from the St. Louis Children's Choir had gone to Japan on an ambassador singing tour last year. They chose Suwa as the primary city to visit and to foster a feeling of friendship. Now Suwa has returned the favor.