

“Tanka” poet Akiko Yosano and Tekkan at Yubara

The poets Tekkan Yosano and his wife, Akiko, were invited to a brewery in Katsuyama on 1st July 1933, and during their trip they also visited Kanba Falls, Maga Onsen and Yubara Onsen, all of which are modern-day Maniwa. The couple stayed in Shinise Ryokan's Mizushima-kan (nowadays Hana-yashiki), where Professor Chiyomatsu Ishikawa had also stayed. They also entered Yubara's famous “Sunayu” open air bath, and wrote several poems. At that time, the Mizushima-kan's Hanzaki breeding pond was open, and as the owner held a Hanzaki they showed interest in the animal, and Tekkan wrote one poem about the hanzaki, and Akiko wrote two.



Holding a Hanzaki

They also wrote a poem about the Mizushima-kan where they rested.

“The hometown of the giant salamanders said to live in clear waters is worthy, and Yubara's people and nature are beautiful”.

They included Yubara, the home of the hanzaki, in their poems during their short stay.

The cardboard that the poem was written on was lost in a flood in 1934, but Yubara remains grateful to the couple for giving them the poem, and aim to make a home for the hanzaki and an onsen town worthy of said poem.



Akiko Yosano's visited to Sunayu Onsen



Hanzaki in the front entrance to the Mizushima House



Yosano (Center) and Tekkan (to the left and behind of Yosano) during their visit to a Sake Brewery