Special Thanks to:

Sports Promotion Division for the photos on page 6.

Cover Photo: Trains arriving and waiting to depart from Iwaki Station, the central station for Iwaki's two rail lines: the Joban and Ban'etsu lines.

Back Cover Photo: Firemen performing acrobatic ladder stunts for the annual hashigonori which celebrates the opening of the fire services for the new year.

Photo courtesy of Iwaki City Hometown Public Relations Division.

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From the Editor

Those who live near or have taken a stroll around Iwaki Station may have noticed some odd carvings in a garage located opposite of the Washington Hotel. They may have taken a brief look at the garage's carvings and left without ever stepping inside (the place is only open a few times a month - you can check their Facebook page to find out what days they're open).

The Bourbon Cafe is not so much a cafe but more of an atelier, with the interior housing the works of Kashio Miyazaki. Over a span of about 40 years of his life, he made over 300 wooden carvings, sculptures and drawings.

Some of the carvings, drawings and other artwork inside Bourbon Cafe

- Ben

Kashio had an incredible passion for creating new and more elaborate works – so much that his passion would prove too much for his hands. He eventually had to stop making carvings and move onto alternative less physically demanding forms of art.

When sitting at your table, you are surrounded by these rather intriguing artworks. Whilst quite a strange experience, having a coffee with these sculptures feels like you're in your own personal art gallery. So next time the cafe is open, you may want to take some time to venture inside and get acquainted with Kashio's creations.

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