



Japan Screen Topics

ISSUE No. 76-4

I. PRIME MINISTER HOSTS GARDEN PARTY

42 feet 1 min. 38 sec.

1. BLOSSOMS (3 feet - 9 feet)

Japan is never lovelier than in April ... the time when its flowering cherry trees come to blossom and signal the arrival of spring.

2. CHERRY TREES (9 - 24)

This time of year almost everybody goes to a cherry blossom party, and that includes Prime Minister Takeo Miki.

Every year the prime minister invites the Tokyo diplomatic corps and distinguished Japanese to share with him the beauty of the 1,800 cherry trees in Tokyo's Shinjuku Gyoen Gardens.

For Mr. Miki and his wife ... Mutsuko ... it's a mixture of fun and work. They have the task of personally greeting the 5,000 guests invited to the affair.

3. FLOWER (24 - 42)

Cherry blossom parties are held all over Japan, and a sip of sake ... Japan's famous rice wine ... is one of the traditions.

In some years, umbrellas are de rigueur for the party. This time, Mr. Miki was favored with perfect weather.

These gardens harbor some of Japan's finest cherry trees. In old days, they were part of a princely estate. Now, Shinjuku Gyoen is a public park.

For the small army of diplomats stationed in the capital, it's a chance for friendly, informal contacts in pleasant surroundings.

Diplomacy under the cherry trees ... one of the pleasant traditions of official life in Tokyo.

II. NEW ATTACK IN JAPAN'S CANCER WAR

65 feet 1 min. 48 sec.

1. PATIENT (3 feet - 9 feet)

A new weapon in Japan's struggle against the dread killer cancer goes into use at National Institute of Radiological Sciences in Chiba City near Tokyo.

2. INTERIOR (9 - 30)

The weapon is called an isochronous cyclotron.

It generates tiny electric particles called neutrons. These have been found highly effective in killing some types of cancer when hurled against cancerous tissues at high speed.

Powerful magnets are used to draw neutrons from the cyclotron and accelerate them for use on cancer patients.

The cyclotron was built near a hospital. To avoid radioactive leakage, it is housed in a concrete building with walls three and one half meters thick.

3. ISOTOPES (30 - 39)

The cyclotron also manufactures isotopes ... short-lived radioactive materials used for the diagnosis of cancer and other diseases.

4. PATIENT (39 - 65)

The room in which cancer patients receive the fast neutron treatment actually is a fully equipped operating room.

In many cases, surgeons open the patient's body to expose the cancerous areas, making the neutron bombardment safer and more effective.

The shape and pattern of the neutron radiation is controlled by adjusting the opening in the cyclotron's discharge mechanism.

Built at a cost of almost four and one half million dollars, the cyclotron is one of 20 of its type in the world.

The machine is especially applicable to Japan, because it is highly effective against stomach cancer. In Japan, stomach cancer sufferers make up about half the country's cancer patients.

Japan opens a new front in the fight against one of humanity's most dreadful diseases.

III. YOUTHFUL MUSICIANS

117 feet 3 min. 15 sec.

1. ORGAN PLAYERS (3 feet - 25 feet)

No non-Western Country has embraced Western music with more enthusiasm than Japan.

In the process, Japan has become a pioneer in the field of teaching music to children.

A well-known music education foundation ... established by a musical instrument company ... follows on the theory that musical education should start as early as the age of four.

The foundation began its first experimental course for children in 1954.

Now it carries on a structured program for life-long musical education. Around 450,000 young people attend its classes in Japan and many foreign countries.

2. COMPOSER (25 - 72)

Most students start their basic training with piano or electric organ. Once the fundamentals are mastered, training in composing and arranging music can get under way at a fairly early age.

This is Shigemi Haba, a high school student and aspiring composer. Working in a practice studio, she creates her own music for her electric organ recitals.

3. LAST RECITAL (72 - 117)

Japan Broadcasting Corporation's concert hall ... Today, a concert by children to help other children. Japan's top junior musicians give a charity recital for the United Nations Children's Fund.

An organ piano duet. The girl artist is Yuka Urano, 11 years old ... who has given recitals in the United States, Mexico and other foreign countries.

(boy) The unusual feature of this recital is that part of the music played was written by the children themselves.

The boy is 15 year-old Fumio Kitagawa, who has performed on tour in Spain and the Federal Republic of Germany.

The music is Kitagawa's own composition ... entitled "Fantasia for Piano and Organ."

These concerts by young Japanese who started their musical training as pre-school children have been held annually since 1972.

Each year the recitals result in a growing number of invitations for tours of foreign countries ... where Japan's young musical envoys win enthusiastic and critical acclaim.