



INTERNATIONAL MOTION PICTURE CO., INC.

Hattori Bldg., Takara-cho, Tokyo, Japan.

Cable: IANMUTSU Tokyo

TEL: 563 1341-3

Japan Screen Topics

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JANITOR OF THE SEA

65 feet 1 min. 48 sec.

1. VESSEL SAILING (3 feet - 14 feet)

A little ship with a big job---the janitor of Japan's harbors.

It's an oil skimmer, developed by a leading Japanese tire manufacturer to get rid of oil spills on inland waters. About 80 percent of the man-made pollution on the surface of the sea is oil, spilled from tankers or leaked by refineries. This 60-foot ship skims oil slicks from the surface, separates the oil from the sea water, and returns cleansed water to the sea.

2. BOAT ON SEA (14 - 65)

The skimming vessel is a catamaran in design. The oil intake scoop is suspended between two piers. A hydraulic pressure system enables a single crewman to lower the scoop for operation.

(Oil in sea) The skimmer ship passed its first big test recently when it helped clean up a major oil spill from a refinery into Japan's Inland Sea. Up to now, solvents have been used to get rid of oil slicks. They pose a danger of double pollution. Sometimes the solvents don't disperse after dissolving the oil. Oil absorption materials also have been tried. They don't work well when winds and waves are high.

(Coloured Dye) In this demonstration, oil has been powdered with a coloured dye to make the process easier to watch. Booms used to guide the oil to the intake give the skimmer a beetle-like appearance. But it's an efficient beetle, and disposes of 95 percent of the oil channelled to it by the booms. Previous skimmer ships were less practical. They had to take in 500 times the amount of water that passes through the vessel.

It's another step forward in man's quest for a clean environment in the oil age.

SUMMER ICE SCULPTURE

63 feet 1 min. 45 sec.

1. FACES (3 feet - 25 feet)

These faces belong to patrons of one of the world's shortest art exhibits. Seventy hotel and restaurant chefs gather in Tokyo's Ginza to show their skills in making statues from ice.

These art works have a brief life expectancy, but they appeal to the Japanese appreciation of transient beauty: Sponsored by a Ginza merchant association, the show was held in 30-degree centigrade weather in the midst of Tokyo's furnace-like summer. The rule is that the sculptors must execute their statues in half an hour.

2. MAN WITH ICE BLOCK (25 - 51)

Obviously it's a race against the heat...to create something beautiful before the ice melts. The chefs are quick at their work, and within minutes the statues begin to take shape.

(Dragon) This dragon's head was one of the first completed.

3. SCULPTURED DOLPHINS (51 - 63)

Dolphins join the ice art gallery, followed by a deer.

But the ice is melting rapidly now...a mere one hour after it all started most of the statues were puddles in the street...and their beauty only a memory.

QUALITY IN SOUND

92 feet 2 min. 33 sec.

1. TEST ROOM (3 feet - 15 feet)

Every year the ears of Japan's young music lovers grow sharper and more sophisticated. The market for sound equipment is booming. Manufacturers invest heavily in research to meet the demand for ever higher quality. This testing room for audio devices...built recently by a Japanese company...is 100 percent echo free...lined with more than 4,000 sound absorbers.

2. MOVING WALLS (15 - 23)

Along with good equipment, listening environment is a big factor in enjoying music. The moving walls of this experimental studio can be adjusted for optimum acoustical quality.

3. LOUDSPEAKER (23 - 39)

This hi-fi store in Tokyo's Ginza is holding a seminar on speakers, explaining the fine points to an audience of young people. About 1,000 speakers are built every day in Japan and sold as independent components of sound system.

4. TURNTABLE (39 - 53)

Japan's sound market now is supplied by about 50 leading manufacturers. It is a fiercely competitive business. In 1975, they sold 250,000 stereo sets and around half a million amplifiers. Surveys show that about 54 percent of all homes in Japan now own some sort of hi-fi equipment.

5. KID LISTENING (53 - 70)

Overwhelmingly the sound market in Japan is a market of young people. The international pop music wave has washed over Japan in

the last 30 years. Many children in Japan get into hi-fi around junior high school age. They're very fussy about setting up and operating their own equipment. And soon they turn from mere listening to recording sound themselves.

6. RECORDING SESSION (70 - 92)

One manufacturer of hi-fi equipment sponsors a concert especially for young sound enthusiasts. Music from the stage is recorded by teenagers and college students, most of them with their own equipment. Professional sound engineers are on hand to give help and advice to the children as asked. This concert is not so much for listening, but for recording pleasure.