



Japan Screen Topics

ISSUE No. 77-3

GRACE ON ICE

165 feet 4 min. 35 sec.

1. (STADIUM) Yoyogi National Stadium in Tokyo becomes the mecca of the graceful sport of figure skating, as Japan plays host to the 1977 World Figure Skating Championships for the first time.

2. (LEGS) An elite corps of 95 of the world's finest skaters representing 17 countries gathers in Tokyo in March for the championships.

Among the crowd pleasers are an unusual pairs team from the Soviet Union... 12 year-old Marina Cherkasova and her towering 19 year-old partner Sergei Shahrui. Their deft performance wins them 4th place in pairs competition.

3. (MAN HOLDING WOMEN) Third place in the pairs event goes to American teenagers Tai Babilonia and Randy Gardner, who have skated together for seven years.

4. (CANADIAN FLAG) Canada's pairs entry is Sherri Baier and Robin Cowan.

5. (GIRL IN RED COSTUME) The bronze medal for third place in women's singles goes to Dagmar Lutz of German Federal Republic.

6. (MAN IN BLACK COSTUME) The Soviet Union's Vladimir Kovajov is the gold medal winner in men's singles dancing.

7. (GIRL IN PINK COSTUME) In women's figure skating a new queen is crowned. Linda Fratianne, the 16-year-old American champion stages a superb performance to capture the gold medal. She succeeds her countrywoman, Dorothy Hammil, as the world's top woman singles figure skater.

8. (PAIR IN BLACK COSTUMES) In pairs competition, the brilliant Soviet veterans Irina Rodina and Aleksandr Zaitcev win their fifth consecutive gold medal as a team. For Miss Rodina it is her 9th world championship in a row. She won four times in this event with another partner before teaming with Zaitcev.

9. (PAIR IN ORANGE COSTUMES) Most ice dancing numbers are on the restrained side, but Britain's Janet Thompson and Warren Maxwell have perfected a comic routine based on modern popular songs. It charms the audience, and the judges, and wins the pair second place and the silver medal.

10. (MAN IN BLACK COSTUME) Japan too has its big moment in the 1977 World Figure Skating Championships. Twenty-one year-old Minoru Sano's spectacular performance in the free style phase of the men's singles won him the top ranking gold medal for free style... and a bronze medal in overall men's singles competition.

Sano's performance draws cheers from a partisan Tokyo audience.

BIRD SANCTUARY ON TOKYO BAY

64 feet 1 min. 47 sec.

1. (MARSH) Almost 18 million people live in the densely populated and industrialized Tokyo area. Surprisingly, this urbanized district now also contains one of Japan's largest sanctuaries for wild birds. It is located on marshlands in Tokyo Bay near the industrial suburb of Ichikawa, only 10 kilometers from the center of the capital.

Most of the birds are migratory ducks which winter in the Japanese islands and summer in Siberia. But some 130 other kinds of birds also live on the 205 acre preserve all or part of the year.

2. (WHITE BIRDS) Among them are the white egret, one of Japan's most beautiful birds, and the teal ducks who wade and feed in the marsh ponds.

3. (GULLS) Tokyo Bay's seagulls also use the preserve, along with the Japanese snipe.

4. (SURVEY) This marsh always has been visited by migratory birds. In modern times, it was threatened by urbanization. Starting in 1970, local governments spent over 400,000 dollars to make it a permanent bird refuge. The present caretakers are a husband-and-wife team, Yoshiteru and Junko Hasuo, who are employes of Ichikawa City. They go out to count the birds daily.

5. (FIRST AID) Of course there are casualties... the Hasuos double as doctors, splinting the wing of this Japanese green pigeon while one of Tokyo's saucy black crows looks on. They also rescue wild birds that get entangled in electric wires, and treat those wounded by hunters.

The birds now seem to know that the preserve is safe. When its development began in 1970, there were about 30,000 birds of 29 species. Nowadays 136 recorded varieties use the preserve. The daily population in winter exceeds 100,000.

52 16 hrs

