



INTERNATIONAL MOTION PICTURE CO., INC.

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

Cable: IANMUTSU Tokyo

TEL: 563-1341 ~ 4

Japan Screen Topics

ISSUE No. 77-8

A TOUCH OF NATURE

124 feet 3 min. 27 sec.

1. (STATION) Japan's schools close for the summer July 21st... just as the hottest weather of the year envelopes the capital.
For the thousands of Tokyo primary school children, it is off to the countryside. Group holidays organized by schools and local governments bring youngsters in the crowded city of 11 million into contact with nature in cooler surroundings.
2. (SUN AND TREES) One countryside site is Youth Camp Village, in a forest area east of Tokyo. As far as possible, adults stay on the sidelines and let the youngsters run the camp themselves. Middle school children have been appointed junior leaders. Their first task is to teach the primary schoolers the art of putting up tents.
3. (RICE PADDY) The woods and nearby rice paddies become a super-playground for the city children as they set off on their first hike. Because of the large numbers who want to come, the Youth Camp Village must work on rotation. Most children stay no more than one or two nights.
4. (COOKING) The children cook their own meals. Camp stoves are lighted... soon delicious smells fill the woods, and the hungry young campers dine in the open.

5. (CAMPFIRE) And like every good campout, this one ends with a campfire gathering.

6. (SWIMMING) Other organized holidays take children to nearby beaches. Many Tokyo primary schools now have their own pools and swimming programs. These youngsters are testing water skills learned during the year. They also are getting acquainted with ocean bathing... one of the Tokyo area's finest summer recreation resources.

Teachers offer the swimming instruction. Colored caps are used to tell proficient swimmers from beginners.

7. (WATERMELLON) Not all the fun at the beach is in the water. Suikawari or watermelon smashing is a traditional Japanese party game for youngsters.

At forest and seashore, Tokyo's children deepen their understanding of nature, and practice the art of cooperating with others.

ROOF-TOP SPORTS

40 feet 1 min. 07 sec.

1. (STREET SCENE) Crowded central Tokyo... an unlikely setting for athletic games... but many Japanese companies turn office roof-tops into sports facilities... like this archery range... to help employees keep fit.

2. (GOLF) Some firms sponsor employee golf teams. At roof-top driving ranges like this one, office workers hone their golf skills for use in weekend matches.

3. (TENNIS) Tokyo has had roof-top tennis courts for many years... at schools and office buildings. This is the first to be lighted for night games. It's on the roof of a commercial leisure center built to make sports available to workers in the inner city.

Some companies restrict use of their roof-top gyms to their own workers. Others are available... for a fee... to the public.

PERFORMING FISH

67 feet 1 min. 52 sec.

1. (AQUARIUM) Enoshima Aquarium, near Tokyo, is the home of some remarkable performing fish.

2. (FISH) For delighted crowds each day, parrot bass show off their ball dribbling skills. This fish was chosen because it has a natural instinct to peck at its food rather than swallowing in one gulp. They are trained initially to follow a 300 watt light beam until it becomes a reflex action as soon as the ball appears.

3. (OBSTACLE COURSE) And now an obstacle course. The fish is a sea bream, used because it can stop and manoeuvre quickly.

4. (TUG OF WAR) The sea bream again, this time with an underwater version of the ancient sport of tug of war. These fish have very sturdy teeth, which makes it easy for them to pull the rope to and fro. It looks like this match will end in a draw.

5. (BASKETBALL) Finally, the parrot bass in a performance to make any basketball player green with envy. Their beak-like mouth makes it easy to nudge the balls into a basket on the surface.

GOLDFISH COUNTRY

94 feet 2 min. 37 sec.

1. (GOLDFISH) For centuries, goldfish have been among Japan's most popular pets. Nowadays goldfish in a variety of shapes and colors grace millions of homes. These beautiful fish also are a big business. Last year more than 200 million of them were bred in Japan. A large share were exported to countries like the United States, Germany and Britain.

2. (PONDS) Almost half the goldfish raised in Japan come from the Yamato-Koriyama district near the old capital city of Nara. Goldfish breeding in the area dates back more than 250 years, when the arid region abounded in wells and water-holding ponds which created an excellent environment for the fish.
The ponds are rich in plankton which give the water its unusual dark color. The fishes' diet is also supplemented with ground grain.

3. (SPLASH) Fountains are used to raise the water's oxygen content.

4. (RESEARCH) Checking for parasites, a scientist picks scales from the goldfish at a research center built for the industry by a nearby university. The center also studies the qualities of water that make a healthy home for goldfish.

5. (SCREENING) Over 200 families, with approximately 2,000 ponds, raise goldfish on a full or part-time basis in this district.

For harvesting, the ponds are divided by screens. Once the goldfish are netted, the raisers patiently sort them by size and species.

To have commercial value, goldfish must not be allowed to grow too large. Farmers stunt the fish by carefully controlling their diet and restricting the size of their breeding ponds. They try to strike a balance of color, shape and health, all of which contribute to the fish's value.

6. (AUCTION) Goldfish are sold at auction, and the finest specimens can fetch about 400 dollars. Most, however, are traded in lots of 1,500 in these floating containers. Last year, Yamato-Koriyama fish farmers grossed about one million six hundred thousand dollars in sales.

Once traded, the fish are loaded out for shipment. They have an average life span of about five years, though some have been known to live as long as fifteen.