



Japan Screen Topics

ISSUE No. 79-6

UNICYCLES IN THE SCHOOLS

106 feet 2 min. 57 sec.

1. (CHILDREN BESIDE YELLOW BEAM) In Chiba Prefecture, east of Tokyo, the Sakaine Elementary School is proving that good education is just a matter of balance Since the autumn of last year the school has initiated courses in riding unicycles, and already the scheme has had encouraging results in bringing out the most introvert pupils and developing a sense of confidence in them.
2. (WRENCH TIGHTENING NUT) Taking care of equipment is the first thing that's taught - as early as the first grade. In fact, it's not until the second grade that the student learns to ride the unicycle.... Being responsible for the up-keep of the cycles is good training if at times a tiny bit frustrating!!
3. (INSTRUCTOR HOLDING UNICYCLE) From the second grade, the student is taught the rudiments of riding on one-wheel only, and it's not long after that before turning tricks is just a hop, skip and a jump away.
4. (STUDENT PULLING SMALL CART) Relay races are only part of the fun -- marking out the track beforehand demands a certain skill of its own!

5. (BATON) Batons in hand, the competitors are ready ... and they're off!

(BATONS CHANGING HANDS) Riding at high speeds requires a much higher degree of control, and the faster you try to go the easier it is to come unstuck ...

6. (RED BALL) Having mastered the skills involved in riding the unicycle, in racing it, and in knowing that it's quite within your control, you're ready for the more advanced business of playing unicycle hockey Achieving such skills is the result of a lot of hard work, but there's always the reward of a heart-warming cheer to make it worthwhile.

7. (STUDENTS RIDING IN FORMATION) School authorities are pleased with the results of their innovation, and it's obvious how the pupils themselves feel. Suddenly physical education classes are fun!

HANDMADE CAMERAS

96 feet 2 min. 40 sec.

1. (LOCOMOTIVE CAMERA) Who says the camera never lies? These days, almost nothing is what it appears to be

2. (MAN AT WORKBENCH) Kentsuke Hijikata is a well-known photographer who has launched a private rebellion against the increasing automation in today's cameras. Using the very latest in components, he builds a camera that is based on the original box-camera. On the outside, at least, some of his works lend a different twist to the word "originality".

3. (MEN DISCUSSING) He's not alone in feeling that technical improvements have taken the challenge out of photography; that continuing advances have made photography less personal. Mr. Hijikata is the president of a club of handmade camera enthusiasts which has 55 members to date, and he is certain that this membership will grow. The members meet from time to time to exhibit their latest models

4. (CIGARETTES) For the serious smoker, a choice of a pack of cigarettes or a match box, guaranteed to take "hot" snapshots.

5. (CAMERA WITH TWO LENSES) For the more sophisticated, this is a stereo-camera

6. (CAMERA IN WOODEN BOX) A restaurant coffee-grinder finds a second lease of life as a very unusual camera. The elaborate arrangement of the shutter permits the taking of equally unusual photographs ... such as these ...

7. (MULTI-ACCESSORY CAMERA) There are cameras in all shapes and sizes, but how about this for the man who has everything? A camera that contains a tape measure, a watch, and a built-in radio with an earphone.

Mr. Hijikata and his friends are sure that there are people of like mind all over the world and look forward to getting in contact from fellow enthusiasts overseas.

MINI-WORLD'S FAIR

72 feet 2 min.

1. (LARGE SIGNBOARD) The 13th Tokyo International Trade Fair.

2. (SIGN: "BELGIUM") Among the participating nations in Asia's largest trade fair held in Tokyo this spring, is Belgium with a fine display of diamonds
 3. ("GERMANY") From the Federal Republic of Germany come cameras, to the delight of enthusiasts in Japan ... and equipment for doctors -- for use in hospitals and in general practice.
 4. (CHANDILIER) A glittering display from Czechoslovakia glassware and musical instruments are among this country's products.
 5. ("KOREA") A little closer to home is Korea, represented here in traditional costume.
 6. ("BRAZIL") The Brazilian booth, offering cups of coffee, affords a brief rest to the 56,000 visitors of this year's Fair, which takes place every year, alternating between the Harumi Fair Grounds in Tokyo, and Osaka.
 7. (POURING WINE) The Argentinean exhibit offers a tempting display of national wines and beverages
- As well as the goods displayed, there's plenty of food for thought as the buyers meet to discuss details of a sale.
8. (PLATE) Gold-plating adds a rich finish to the Mexican exhibit
 9. (GRAPEFRUITS) While from the United States, a touch of California sunshine in the shape and form of oranges and grapefruits

10. (EMBROIDERY MACHINE) On show from Japan itself, an automatic embroidery machine that's capable of mass-producing the most intricate designs, and all controlled by punchtape.

Literally something for everyone at what can fairly be called a miniature world's fair.

TOKYO'S "THREE SHRINES FESTIVAL"

81 feet 2 min. 15 sec.

1. (THREE MEN IN YELLOW COSTUMES) Six a.m. on a May morning in the old part of Tokyo known as Asakusa. It's the start of the "Sanja Matsuri" -- the "Three Shrines Festival" -- dedicated to three saints enshrined in the Asakusa Shrine. It is Tokyo's biggest annual festival. Three enormous omikoshi, or portable shrines, from the Asakusa Shrine are carried through the streets in the same way as they have been since 1312, when the festival was first held. The portable shrines each weigh two tons, so it's no wonder that altogether thousands of people are involved in carrying them throughout the parade

2. (SHRINE BEING LIFTED UP) The neighbourhood blocks each have their own smaller portable shrines -- 80 of them in all -- and as the festival progresses the local people carry these in procession to the Asakusa Shrine where they will be blessed

3. (OVERHEAD SHOT) These omikoshi are smaller and lighter, but they are still carried in the traditional way - the same way of marching, the same way of chanting, as the bigger ones.

4. (CHILDREN CARRYING SHRINE) Children are keen to get in on the act, and it's not unknown for some of the foreign residents to lend a hand also

5. (PRIEST WAVING STICK) And at the end of the long, exhilarating march, each shrine is blessed by the head priest, impressive in his white, Shinto robes A fitting climax to this four day event, which this year involved a total of two million people.
