

02.アニメーション



INTERNATIONAL MOTION PICTURE CO., INC.

Tokyo, Japan.

Cable: IANMUTSU Tokyo

TEL: 563-1341~4

Japan Screen Topics

ISSUE No. 80-4

MASTER KITEMAKER

100 feet 2 min. 47 sec.

1. (LAUNCHING KITE) Kite flying was introduced to Japan from China about one thousand years ago, and it's been immensely popular ever since. In olden days, the Japanese flew kites to celebrate the birth of a son. They hoped the boy's ideals would soar as high and that he would grow tall and straight as the kite. Nowadays the number of craftsmen who make kites is diminishing. But there are a few left, including 76-year-old Mr. Teizo Hashimoto.

2. (CU OF FACE) Mr. Hashimoto has been making kites for 70 years, starting from his school days. There are different types of kites made by the craftsmen of Japan. Mr. Hashimoto's kind of kite is the Edo type, the old name for Tokyo. Most Japanese kites -- or tako as they are called -- are rectangular. They are known not for differences in shapes or sizes but for the picture drawn on the face of the kite. The most popular pictures are scenes or characters or animals drawn from children's stories and Kabuki plays. The first step in kite designing is to make a rough sketch in charcoal; then the outline is drawn in sumi, the Japanese black ink. Specially prepared paints and dyes are applied to a special Japanese paper called washi, which is reinforced with silk strands. The colors are usually bright and vivid, and the picture stands out against the clear blue sky even when flown at great heights.

3. (ATTACHING FRAMEWORK) The final step in the making of the kite is the attaching of the bamboo frame.

4. (DEPARTMENT STORE INTERIOR) A department store has asked Mr. Hashimoto to give an exhibition of his kite-making. Japanese craftsmen traditionally tried to work in private; they preferred not to be seen as they plied their craft. But in recent years, as the number of traditional craftsmen has dwindled, more of them have agreed to display their techniques. Mr. Hashimoto is one of Japan's leading kitemakers and his demonstrations draw fascinated audiences. It takes him two or three days to make an average-sized kite, but a very large one can take months of finish.

5. (KITE SAMPLES) Each of Mr. Hashimoto's kites is unique. They are regarded more as works of art than as toys.

MAGNETIC-POWERED SHIP

66 feet 1 min. 50 sec.

1. (SHIP MOVING) Among the latest technological advances under study in Japan is a ship without a propeller. Propulsion come from the reaction between a large magnet and an electric current applied through seawater.

2. (ASSEMBLYING SHIP) Research on an experimental ship model is being conducted by the Kobe University of Mercantile Marine, and heading the project is Doctor Yoshiro Saji. Researchers say they are looking for ways to improve ocean transport ... especially in the fields of speed and safety.

3. (SLITS ON SHIP'S BOTTOM) An electric current is projected into the water through these openings in the boat. The huge super conducting magnet is attached to the bottom of the ship's hull. Changing the direction in which the electricity is passed across the magnet changes the direction in which the ship moves.

4. (SHIP IN POOL) The framework above the boat contains observation instruments and monitoring devices.

Repeated tests are made in the water tank that measures six meters by sixty meters. The boat itself is 3.6 meters long. Researchers at the Kobe University of Mercantile Marine have been experimenting with this new form of propulsion for the last five years. Practical application is still years away and may be limited, but if realized, ships will be able to travel at speeds up to 50 knots. And there will be no vibrations, no noise, and no pollution.

Since Japan is an island nation, the surrounding seas are its principal roads to the world. Marine transport is of vital importance to the Japanese economy and to the well-being of the Japanese people. This new type of propeller-less ship could be of benefit to Japan, and to other nations dependent on the sea.

STATION LUNCH BOXES

108 feet 3 min.

1. (TRAIN) The major train system of Japan is the Japanese National Railways. Its trains run the length and breadth of Japan over a total of more than 21,000 kilometers of track. Each day the trains cover an average of nearly 2 million kilometers, spanning a network that on a map would look as intricate as a spider's web.

2. (CU OF "BENTO") Many of the trains have dining cars. But on long-distance trains passengers traditionally buy and eat specially prepared meals known as eki-ben, or station lunch boxes.

3. (TRAIN ARRIVING) The sight and sound of the lunchbox vendor has become synonymous with railroad travel in Japan. At major stations the vendors are ready and waiting when the train pulls in. Passengers don't even have to leave their seats to buy one of the tasty meals -- the vendor will hand it in through the window. On express trains, with long distances between stations, eki-ben are sold inside the trains from pushcarts. Japanese National Railways runs 280,000 trains on an average day. They are used by nearly 20 million passengers daily and business is good for the sellers of station lunch boxes.

4. (WHITE & BLUE BULLET TRAIN) Near Tokyo Station is the largest bento or lunch-box-preparing facility in the country. This company can make 200 lunch boxes an hour, or 2,000 a day. It sells most of its output on the platforms of Tokyo Station and inside trains passing through the station. The basic ingredient of the meals and the first one into the cardboard lunch box is rice.

5. (CU WORKER'S FACE) Next comes the centerpiece of the meal. The most popular are fried shrimp, fish or hamburger. Boiled vegetables are also included, and soy sauce is available for seasoning.

6. (BENTO SAMPLES) Each district of Japan is famous for its particular type of lunch box and its distinctive ingredients. Here are samples of the different types.

7. (VENDOR) The long-distance trains of the Japanese National Railways include the shinkansen, or bullet train. It's the fastest in the world, hitting speeds of more than 200 kilometers per hour on scheduled runs, but still features the traditional lunch box meal. On slower trains, as well, the eki-ben becomes part of the adventure of travel. At major stations passengers can stretch their legs and look over the various lunch boxes on sale. Then it's back onto the train with a meal ready for eating ... one of thousands and thousands of station lunch boxes sold each day.

HOT SPRING MONKEYS

92 feet 2 min. 17 sec.

1. (CLIFFS COVERED IN SNOW) Nagano Prefecture is located in the middle of Honshu ... the main island of Japan. It's one of the most mountainous areas of Japan and also one of the coldest. In one part of Nagano is a section called "Hell's Valley" which takes its name from the steep and treacherous hillsides. Few outsiders visit Hell's Valley, but about 10 years ago, residents of the area succeeded in attracting other visitors. These are the local "Japanese monkeys." The local inhabitants put out food for the monkeys. Now a pack of 90 monkeys makes regular visits to a particular hot spring area in the valley. The furry animals have come to enjoy the food and warmth.

2. (THROWING FOOD) People put food out for the monkeys three times a day. A whistle blows to let the animals know that their rice and apples are ready. Temperatures in Nagano drop to 10 to 20 degrees below zero. It's rare for monkeys to live in such a cold climate, but despite the cold and the snow, the monkeys succeed in finding the food left for them.

3. (MONKEYS IN WATER) The hot springs are a major attraction for the monkeys. There's a story that the monkeys used to enjoy coming to the hot springs because the rocks around the waters are so warm. Sitting there on a cold winter's day was a delightful treat. One day one of the monkeys was intrigued by the bubbles in the spring. He slapped at them with his paw. They were warm and felt good. Then he struck his big tow in ... That felt good, too. Next came one leg, another leg, and finally the monkey was in the 40-degree-centigrade waters up to his neck. He spread the word of his discovery. Now on particularly cold days as many as 20 monkeys come to frolic in the waters. This pack has kept the secret, though ... It's the only area in the country where monkeys bathe in hot springs.

The whole area around the springs is a protected zone for monkeys. Lately large numbers of tourists have come to "Hell's Valley" to watch the primates bathe. But officials who look after the welfare of the monkeys restrict the number of visitors. The idea is to limit the monkeys' association with humans as much as possible. This will allow them to live effectively in their natural environment and not become overly domesticated.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX