



Japan Screen Topics

ISSUE No. 82-5

CHERRY BLOSSOM TIME

76feet 2min 6sec

1. (CHERRY TREES, MT.FUJI, YASUKUNI) Spring comes to Japan... with the blossoming of the cherry trees.

2. (TREES) Without the blossoming cherry trees, it wouldn't feel like spring. The sad thing is that after 2 or 3 days, the blossoms fall.

3. (FAMILIES, TREES) Several weeks before, weather reports on television in Japan run special bulletins on the progress of the cherry trees....

From Okinawa down south, to Kyushu, then to points north, cherry blossoms make their magnificent debut...much to everyone's delight.

One custom is to pack a picnic lunch and go off to one of the famous cherry-viewing spots.

4. (PRIME MINISTER, DIGNITARIES) Every year the Prime Minister of Japan invites the diplomatic and press corps and political and entertainment figures, to view the cherry trees. This year over 5,000 guests attended the party in Shinjuku.

ROBOT FAIR

97feet 2min 41sec

1. (AMUSEMENT PARK, HALL, ROBOTS) It wasn't so long ago that the word 'robot' was something out of science fiction...

At this exhibition in Mie Prefecture, a wide variety of robots are being shown....

2. (WELDER ROBOT) Robots are capable of quite sophisticated work....like welding auto parts on the assembly line...

They line up the parts and weld them together with a shot of electric current...

Robots do boring jobs...dirty jobs...heavy jobs....

3. (INVENTORY ROBOTS) Robots are good at inventory control... keeping track of what parts are on hand, what materials are needed...

Robots do the heavy work of loading and unloading, too.

4. (NURSE ROBOT) Robots make good nurses. While they may lack the proper bedside manner, hospital robots take care of their patients without complaining. Tokyo University has developed robots that can help their patients drink from a glass. They also do diagnostic work.

5. (MECHANIMALS) At Tokai University, another kind of robot research...on robots that move, with the help of solar energy, just like ocean animals.

The aim is to develop undersea vehicles that will not disturb the natural rhythm and environment beneath the waves....

6. (RAT IN A MAZE) A real crowd-pleaser at the robot fair was this mouse robot.

With the help of electronic sensors, he cleverly negotiated every twist and turn in this labyrinth. He never went up a blind alley.

7. (MARILYN MONROE) Robots have come a long way... They don't have to be frightening or unattractive. Some 70% of the world's industrial robots are in use in Japan.

And the number is growing.....

GREENHOUSE WITH A DIFFERENCE

80feet 2min 12sec

1. (SOLAR ROOF, PIPES) Solar energy...economical, practical and always there to be used...

For some time now, heat from the sun has been used to heat buildings through the warmed-up water in roof panelling.

Here, in Aichi prefecture, a unique new way of using the power of the sun is in the works...or rather, the sun PLUS the heat-retaining property of Mother Earth.

2. (EGGPLANT, STRAWBERRIES) These specially-designed greenhouses provide heat and a moist environment...without a drop of fossil fuel used.

3. (GREENHOUSE) A greenhouse can get really hot during the day.

In this special greenhouse...a series of fans are used that move the heated air stored in the course of the day...and send it into pipes under the ground. The earth holds onto the heat...

Later on, when the sun goes down, the hot air is led back into the greenhouse from the underground pipes.

4. (PLASTIC CEILING MOVES) To help keep a steady high temperature at all hours, a sheet of plastic is brought down when the sun goes down. This in effect lowers the ceiling, and provides a smaller space to be heated at night.

5. (GREENHOUSE, ORCHIDS) This unique greenhouse system is especially good for raising delicate plants like orchids...that demand steady warmth.

UENO ZOO CENTENNIAL

95feet 2min 37sec

1. (EMPEROR, ZOO) This year marks the 100th anniversary of Tokyo's Ueno Zoo --- His Majesty the Emperor opened the centennial celebration.

Since 1882, the Zoo has been one of the most popular recreation spots in town.

2. (EMPEROR, CRANE) The Ueno Zoo has long received animals as gifts from foreign countries...

Former U.S. President Ford gave the Japanese people this bird --- called a Greater Sam Hill crane.

3. (MAP, OLD PIX) But in the beginning the Zoo was strictly a domestic animal menagerie --- no wild animals, let alone exotic ones, until 1887 when the first tigers arrived. Other foreign species of animal soon followed.

4. (ELEPHANTS, LION CUBS) 1923 --- and the Great Kanto Earthquake.

The Ueno Zoo came through it without a scratch --- the only casualty was a hippo that was so shaken up that it almost forgot to come up for air!

5. (MONKEY TRAIN) Since 1948, the famous Ueno "Monkey Train" has had a huge following.

The train is unique --- because the engineer is a monkey!

6. (PANDA) The Government of China gave a pair of pandas to Japan in 1972. The two pandas, named Kan-Kan and Lan-Lan; became something of national heroes.

There was a big panda craze...panda t-shirts and panda dolls..

The year the pandas hit Tokyo, 8 million people came to see them.

No visit to Ueno Zoo would be complete without a look at the pandas.

7. (CAGES, PEOPLE) The Ueno Zoo houses Japan's biggest collection of animals, 881 species represented, and at last count, practically 14,000 animals.