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## *Japan Screen Topics*

ISSUE No. 82-8

### SUPEREXPRESS MOVES NORTH

76 feet 2 min 7 sec

1. (RIBBON-CUTTING, OFFICIALS) A new road to Japan's Northeast district opened up in June...the Tohoku Shinkansen or Superexpress Train. For the first time, on June 23, the speedy so-called bullet trains began service from Omiya...just north of Tokyo, all the way up to Morioka...some 505 kilometers....

2. (MAP) Up to now, Shinkansen superexpress trains linked Tokyo with the south...to Osaka, Kyoto, and Hakata on the island of Kyushu. Now the Northeast of Japan is linked to the capital by Shinkansen service.

3. (TRAIN INTERIOR) The new trains are wider than the ones in service to the south...with about 40 millimeters more space.

On any journey...that extra margin of comfort is always appreciated.

The new trains make the long trip in just 3 hours and 20 minutes at speeds up to 210 kilometers (131 miles) per hour.

In the near future...they'll go as fast as 260 kilometers (162 miles) per hour!

4. (COMPUTER CONTROL ROOM) The nerve center of the new line is the National Railways control room in Tokyo...where the new Tohoku line trains are monitored by computer...to ensure safety as well as speed and punctuality.

With this computer system, the National Railways can deal with accidents or break-downs more speedily...and get the trains back on schedule.

5. (RAILS) The new Shinkansen trains to the Northeast make the trip a few hours shorter than before.

### WIND CHIMES OF SUMMER

67 feet 1 min 52 sec

1. (CHIMES, GLASS) A lazy day in summer...the breezes blow... the music of wind chimes.

The Edogawa section of Tokyo...where these little glass masterpieces are made... They're called "Edo Furin (pronounced Foorin)", or the Wind Chimes of old Tokyo.

2. (GLASS FACTORY) Today ...only one workshop in all of Japan is still making this kind of glass wind chime...

Yoshiharu Shinohara and his family have their own small glass factory...the 3rd generation of Shinoharas in the Edo Furin business.

Edo Furin are made from glass...heated to 1200 degrees centigrade till it's red-hot and soft like taffy. The glass is stuffed into a tube...and then it's blown until a bubble forms. More of the soft glass is added on and it's blown into the desired shape.

It takes years of labor to master this art.

3. (PEOPLE PAINTING CHIMES) Designs are painted onto the glass... and the whole Shinohara family gets into the act and makes 600 furins a day.

Edo Furin are made of the most delicate glass...to ensure a sweetly musical sound when the wind blows...

4. (HOZUKI FAIR) To the Japanese...the sound of Edo Furin means summer is here. At the Hozuki Fair in Tokyo's Asakusa section... hundreds of stalls sell these popular summer wind-chimes.

#### WRIST-WATCH TELEVISION

42 feet 1 min 10 sec

1. (TV WATCH, WRIST) A leading Japanese watch-maker has just unveiled a real show-stopper...a black-and-white television that fits on your wrist!

It tells the time, of course, like a regular watch...and it has an alarm and stopwatch...

2. (WOMAN, HEADPHONES) But just attach a special plug to the watch, put on the headphones that also act as a TV antenna...and turn on your favorite television show!

3. (TUNER) There's a wallet-sized tuner for FM...and you have a choice of either UHF or VHF on the TV wristwatch.

The TV watch is made up of 3 components...the wristwatch itself, a small electronic tuner/battery pack...and the headphones.

The big break-through is the liquid crystal TV screen...super-flat and it does away with bulky picture tubes.

The TV watch should be on the market in Japan next year.



## CEREMONIAL PARASOLS

100 feet 2 min 47 sec

1. (TEA CEREMONY, SHRINE) Throughout the world...in ancient times... the parasol was used as a symbol of power and prestige....

In Japan today, the bright red parasol is held over the heads of shrine dignitaries, and also is used for shade during outdoor tea ceremonies...

2. (PARASOL MAKER) Today in Japan, there is only one place left where these special parasols are made...the town of Fuso in Aichi prefecture.

Ozaki Masaaki makes these unique umbrellas called Tsuma-ori gasa.. from bamboo and handmade paper.

He carries on a family tradition of 400 years...13 generations of parasol-making.

It's painstaking work...the bamboo is split and made into thin ribs... Then the bamboo is tightly bound with brightly-colored silk thread.

Strong Japanese paper painted with red lacquer is glued onto the ribs of the parasol.

In the old days...the work of making Tsuma-ori parasols was divided among 10 or more artisans.

But now...Mr. Ozaki does it all alone... It takes him about a week to produce just one.

And just why are they all red in color? They say...to keep the devil away!

## SOLAR REVIVAL

61 feet 1 min 42 sec

1. (STIRLING BOILER) This machine is a re-model of what was invented 150 years ago.

...In Scotland during the great Industrial Revolution...a Protestant minister named Stirling invented a highly-efficient boiler...using an external combustion engine.

2. (MEIJI UNIVERSITY LAB) The main heat source in the original version was wood...or coal...

But today, scientists at Meiji University are working to harness the sun...to run the classic Stirling boiler.

The rays of the sun are caught in a 1.5 meter lens...which has its focus adjusted by micro-computer.

And all day long the lens revolves...following the movements of the sun...

3. (STIRLING BOILER) Water in the tubes inside the boiler is heated by the sun... And the steam from this is confined to a small area just above the pistons....

The heat of the steam moves the pistons that drive the crankshaft...that does whatever work is called for.

Now...the Stirling boiler may seem to be something of a museum piece...but as a quiet, safe and efficient source of power...its appeal remains strong.