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Japan Screen Topics

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JAPAN'S GREATEST FISH STORE

88 feet 2 min. 27 sec.

1. AERIAL SHOT (3 feet - 6 feet)

Tokyo's famous Tsukiji fish market lies almost in the heart of the Japanese capital.

2. TRUCK (6 - 26)

Every day of the year, the people of Tokyo and its suburbs eat an average of some 2,860 metric tons of fish; this stands in stark contrast to a mere 108 metric tons for the beef market. Thus the Tsukiji market performs the staggering task of starting the process of speeding this enormous volume of fish to the Japanese consumer via neighborhood markets and restaurants. The market is open 286 days a year. In the pre-dawn hours, refrigerator trucks and trains loaded with fish begin arriving from fishing ports all over Japan.

3. HEALTH INSPECTORS (26 - 34)

Fish is one of the world's more perishable commodities. As the fish come to market in the morning darkness, a small army of municipal food inspectors works swiftly to assure that only clean, fresh and unpolluted fish will be sold.

4. MAN HOSING FISH (34 - 47)

To make them presentable to buyers, the fish are given a final bath before going on display.

(47 - 51)

Next to arrive are the jobbers, who will buy the fish in lots for distribution to retail dealers. The jobbers inspect the fish, and jot down the asking prices. Then they calculate the bids they will make. At one price or another, all of the fish must be moved.

6. AUCTION (51 - 66)

Markets the world over have languages all their own. At Tsukiji it's sign language, with tons of fish traded at the flick of a finger.

7. JOBBERS WITH FISH (66 - 88)

The auction over, jobbers claim the fish they have bought and move it to their own individual shops in another part of the market. There the large fish are cut up for distribution to retailers. Many kinds like shrimp, and tuna are eaten raw in Japan's famous sashimi restaurants.

The Japanese are a fish-eating people. They depend on fish for 51.4 percent of their intake of animal protein. Consumption of beef is lower than in any other economically advanced country in the world. By mid-day the Tsukiji market is emptied of most of the three thousand tons of fish accumulated during the night. But in a few hours, its daily work of moving fish to people will start all over again.

BRAILLE IN A HURRY

63 feet 1 min. 45 sec.

1. HAND PUNCH (3 feet - 15 feet)

Making Braille books for the blind formerly was a laborious process. Extensive handwork was needed to produce the books. Now a Japanese inventor named Akihiko Ito has harnessed the computer to the task of Braille publishing. As a result, books are produced in less than one percent of the time previously needed.

2. GIRLS' FACE (15 - 33)

First, the book to be produced in Braille is copied by an ordinary typist. Working with an ordinary typewriter keyboard, she punches a tape that can be fed into the computer. A television editing screen enables her to see her mistakes and correct them immediately. When the typing is completed, the tape is fed into the computer.

3. MONITOR COPY (33 - 63)

The computer first runs out a monitor copy in Japanese letters that is given a final check by a sighted proof-reader.

The proof-reader's corrections are fed back into the computer, which now prints the Braille pages at speeds of up to 1,200 lines per minute.

A blind proof-reader checks the Braille pages before they are bound together in book form.

The new process brings hope of cheap, plentiful books for the 250,000 sightless people in Japan.

THE PUSH-BUTTON COWBOY

68 feet 1 min. 53 sec.

1. CATTLE ON RANGE (3 feet - 19 feet)

Range cattle near the Japan Alps... on an experimental farm where automation has taken over many of the tasks of the farmer and the cowboy. Rays from the rising sun trigger this photo-electric device. It opens the gates of a cattle pen, allowing 100 animals to saunter out to pasture for a day of grazing. The unusual farm is operated by the Grassland Research Institute of the Ministry of Agriculture. The goal is to open up unused grassland in Japan's mountains and marshes to livestock farming.

2. CATTLE ON HILLSIDE (19 - 30)

The cattle subsist partly on grass and partly on meals of grain provided at their pens. While they are on the range, television cameras enable a single supervisor in the farm office to keep an eye on the animals. He goes to the pasture only in an emergency.

3. FARM BUILDINGS (30 - 58)

Utilizing Japan's waste land is important. Only about 20 percent of the country is suitable for ordinary farming, and the mountain grasslands offer a way to increase food production.

(music horn) Late in the day... the cattle are called back to their pens by music. By pushing a button, the technician turns on a tape recorder. It plays a tune the cattle have been trained to recognize as a summons. No need to go to the pasture and round them up.

Another electronic devices counts the animals as they enter their pens. And there too, the technician can watch them by television.

4. ENTER PEN (58 - 68)

Even the grain feeding process has been automated. Feed is put out by pushing a button in the control room.

Farming of the future... by Japanese cowboys who never ride the range.