

VX 1-2372

16 mm



# INTERNATIONAL MOTION PICTURE CO., INC.

Hattori Bldg., Takara-cho, Tokyo, Japan

Cable: IANMUTSU Tokyo

TEL: 563 1341-3

## Japan Screen Topics

16mm  
1/10/77

ISSUE No. 77-1

### NEW YEAR'S, JAPANESE STYLE

125 feet 3 min. 28 sec.

1. (MT. FUJI) January First, 1977. As the first rays of the rising sun tint the slopes of stately Mt. Fuji, Japan's people awaken to one of their most beloved holidays---New Year's.
  
2. (MEIJI SHRINE) New Year's is a three-day holiday for adults in Japan... a longer one for school children. Most of the country's 112 million people turn out for a variety of activities that are part of Japan's New Year's tradition.  
 Many start the year with a prayer. More than three million persons visited the Meiji Shinto Shrine in Tokyo on New Year's Eve this year and the three holidays that followed. The rite at the shrine is brief... a clap of the hands, a moment of silent worship, then a coin is donated to the shrine.
  
3. (SENSOJI) The Sensoji Temple, honoring the Buddhist goddess of mercy, Kannon, is a popular New Year's worship center for Buddhists in the Tokyo area. More than one million crowded into the temple grounds to light a stick of incense and drop it in Sensoji Temple's famous offering urn.
  
4. (KARUTA) Another New Year's tradition is Japan's oldest--and hardest---card game. It's called karuta and has been played in one form or another for more than 1,000 years.

Today, the Japan Karuta Association is holding a tournament in Tokyo. To play the game, a player must memorize 100 old Japanese poems. One hundred cards each printed with the last half of a poem are laid face up between two players. Then a caller reads the first lines of each poem. The object is to find the card with the poem's last lines, and capture it before your opponent.

5. (BEAT DRUM) Tokyo's Kodokan... the headquarters of the international sport of Judo... coaches judoka from all over the world, and it has its own special New Year's traditions. New Year's is the start of Kodokan's winter training season, when all students are supposed to practice for 30 days without a rest. But the training grind is launched with a ceremony and a few words of encouragement from the institution's director.

Later, the Kodokan's younger students exhibit their skills.

To gain strength for the winter training, the judoka and their teachers join each other in a bowl of oshiruko, Japanese rice cake, served in a bowl of thick beansoup.

6. (KITES) For children in old times, kite flying... introduced from China about 930 A.D... was a way to convey New Year's wishes to the deities. Today, kites are just popular playthings. At New Year's, Tokyo is clear and windy, providing ideal kite weather. Parks and school grounds are crowded with young kite enthusiasts.

7. (KAKIZOME TAIKAI) Nowadays, the ballpoint pen prevails, but classical handwriting, known as calligraphy, still is a prized and popular art form.

Three thousand six hundred young people chosen from schools all over Japan took part in this traditional writing show during the New Year's holiday. It was held at Tokyo's Budokan auditorium.

Six hundred of the young artists took the floor at a time in six shifts to write words and phrases associated in Japan with the New Year's.

The youngsters display their work---and in a Japanese way, wish you all a Happy 1977!

### TWO-DAY MARATHON

99 feet 2 min. 37 sec.

1. (START) Students from 15 Japanese universities limber up for the annual marathon relay from downtown Tokyo to mountainous Hakone National Park; this is a New Year's sports tradition in Japan. The course runs 225 kilometers from Tokyo's downtown business district to the shores of Hakone's Lake Ashi. Each university enters a team of 10 runners, who cover an average distance of 22.5 kilometers each. Rooting sections and cheer leaders from all schools are at the starting line to encourage their teams.

They're off; first lap runners set a fast early pace through Tokyo's streets.

2. (TIME CLOCK) The first change of runners finds the team from the University of Physical Education in the lead...

The runners are out of the city now...

The Tokyo-Hakone relay race has been held since 1937... reflecting Japan's keen interest in the Olympic marathon. The race takes two days. The five laps from Tokyo to Hakone are run on January 2nd, and the returning runners start back to the capital on the morning of January 3rd. As the runners reach mountain country the pace slows. The hardest lap goes to the man who climbs the steep grade from the Kanagawa lowlands up the

mountains to Lake Ashi.

Rooters from all the participating universities were present to give their own school cheers... the strangest being the 'vegetable cheer' of the agriculture university. The winner of the first day turned out to be the University of Physical Education.

3. (LAKE ASHI) The five laps run on the second day start from a parking lot on the shores of Lake Ashi... Today, the first lap is downhill, and the runners are off to an easy start.

(baton pass) The Physical Education University continues to pull away from its nearest competitor.

In the last lap, the physical education school has an insurmountable lead. The anchor man hits the tape almost three minutes ahead of the agriculture university's final runner. The winning team ran the 225 kilometer course in 11 hours 31 minutes and 11 seconds... an average speed of 19.5 kilometers an hour. It was the first time in 15 years that any one university has won on both days of the race.

Tired as he is the winner gets a victory toss... after Japan's first big sports event of 1977.