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Japan Screen Topics

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KOFU--THE MOUNTAIN CITY

124 feet 3 min. 27 sec.

1. (MOUNTAINS/TOWN) The city of Kofu... the capital of Yamanashi Prefecture... is nestled among mountains with hot springs, vines and crystal deposits. Though only 100 km. from Tokyo, this city of 200,000 seems unaffected by urban sprawl. Once a castle town, the city and its people have managed to continue the traditions of the past in a changing world.
2. (STONE CUTTER) Careful craftsmanship in the cutting, design and polishing of crystal has long been a part of working life for the stone cutters of Kofu. Watching them work brings to mind the bridging of a cultural tradition spanning many generations of patient and conscientious workmanship.
3. (STONE CARVED STATUE) The delicate quality of the work is easily appreciated... the works of Kofu's artisans are much sought after the world over. In the changing light, the stone images seem to come alive with a life honned by the hands of master artists.
4. (GORGE) Near the city... the Shosen-kyo Gorge is considered by many to be one of the most beautiful spots in Japan. The majestic mountains and sparkling river seem a fitting setting in which to savor the presence of the past. It is no wonder that travelers come from all over to view this natural splendor.

5. (GRAPES) Another attraction of the region.... Over 6,000,000 tourists per year come to visit the vineyards and to pick and sample the many varieties of grapes. The natural setting and flavorful fruit... an enjoyable pause from everyday life.
6. (WINERY) The ready availability of grapes has brought about the development of a thriving wine industry. Though not traditionally Japanese.., the European beverage has taken root. From the first winery founded in 1919, today twenty wineries produce over 900 kiloliters of wine annually.
7. (WINE CELLAR) In international competition... the wines of Kofu are favorably compared with the wines of France.
8. (SUNSET) Kofu... a city keeping pace with the past and presnet.

ENERGY FROM OUR SEAS

79 feet 2 min. 12 sec.

1. (BAY) At Yura Bay in the scenic northern countryside of Honshu... the main island of Japan... research is being done today that may well hold the key to the world's sources of energy for the future. Engineers and scientists are trying to harness the power of waves to provide electricity to serve man's ever-increasing need.
2. (VESSEL) The research buoy, "Kai-Mei," has been constructed to serve as a testing station for the Japan Marine Science and Technology Center to develop a wave-power electricity generating system.

3. (ANIMATION) The vessel acts as a buoy... air is forced into and sucked from the pump rooms... the action of the air turns the propellers of air turbine generators. Tests performed in controlled experiments indicated that 80% of the energy of waves could be converted into electricity with such a system. Large buoys like the "Kai-Mei" could also act as breakwaters for harbors.

4. ("KAI-MEI") The large buoy is firmly anchored to the ocean floor so that the flow of the waves will be continuous from one direction. The deck of the "Kai-Mei" houses the air-driven generators....

5. (PICTURE) The technology for the power generation system is truly unique....

6. (VALVES) To equalize the flow of air, pushed and pulled by the action of the waves, a series of valves on the deck continually open and close, indicating the force of the air flow. The design of the "Kai-Mei" has attracted the attention of nations all over the world.... In 1979, research teams from many countries including the United States, England and Canada will come to Yura Bay to work on transforming the natural power of the waves into a useable power source for man.

7. (DATA COLLECTION) Data collected by the sensor system on the buoy is relayed to a research station on shore by radio. The information is carefully monitored to learn what techniques will best serve our future as energy users.

8. ("KAI-MEI") The "Kai-Mei" ... a symbol of man's quest for energy tomorrow.

MAN'S OLDEST COMPUTER

68 feet 1 min. 53 sec.

1. (ABACUS BEADS) The abacus... possibly one of man's oldest tools for mathematics.

2. (PEOPLE) In Japan, a nation noted for its manufacture of electrical computation equipment... the abacus... or soroban in Japanese... is still a popular means of calculating sums. Nearly every shop seems to have at least one.

3. (ABACUS STORE) This simple piece of equipment can be found in many sizes and qualities... but the design is always the same. The demand for these basic but useful tools has in fact grown year by year... this year about 2,000,000 will be purchased.

4. (CLASSROOM) There are today approximately 11,200 schools in Japan with over 1,500,000 students learning to operate the soroban. Why, in this age of computers, is this rudimentary item still in use? The answer may lie in the fact that operating a soroban requires mental agility... learning to do mathematics this way not only turns the student into a more capable counter... he is learning to think as well.

The popularity of the soroban is spreading to other countries as well... perhaps it is the charm of doing things the "old fashioned way"... whatever it is, man's oldest computer seems to be here to stay.

FESTIVAL OF FESTIVALS

81 feet 2 min. 15 sec.

1. (CITY STREET) For the past eight years... a festival has been held near Tokyo's Jingu Shrine each summer, bringing together different celebrants and celebrations from all over Japan to participate in a grand festival of festivals. Thousands come from all over to witness the colorful pagentry.
2. (FISHING DANCE) Fishermen from the north of Japan perform a traditional dance to insure a good catch from the northern seas.
3. (FIRE DANCE) The Arai Fire Dancers... commemorating the god Sarutahiko... dazzle the viewers with a display of fire and sound.
4. (DRUM) Drums lend a festive mood to any celebration... from the far north in Hokkaido... the Kushiro Ezo drummers drive away evil spirits with the beat of the drum.
5. (MAN WITH POLE) Maneuvering under a pole topped with 46 lanterns takes great skill and strength.... Kanto, or balancing, served as a traditional means of attracting the gods from the heavens...; today though... it's just entertainment.
6. (FLOAT) Floats from the colorful Nebuta festival of Aomori seem to symbolize the scale and the dedication of the Japanese people to their traditional festivals. No one can forget the pagentry and color or forget the feeling of camaradery that is the cultural tradition of the nation.

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