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Ball-Playing Jap Schoolboys Are Enjoying Their Freedom

By WILLIAM MCGAFFIN
Times Foreign Correspondent

TOKYO, Oct. 24.—They are playing baseball as we come up to them on the playground of Kudan middle school in north Tokyo. There are about a dozen boys in khaki youth uniforms and soldier caps, whose average age is probably 13.

They drop battered tennis balls and bamboo improvised bats and crowd around us with curiosity written on their intelligent looking faces. You are not surprised to find intelligent faces here, for you remember that this Japanese counterpart of our junior high school is entered only upon passing stiff entrance examinations.

You already have conversed with Shunzo Toshima, the school's head teacher. He has told you how the process of being demilitarized. Military drill has been abandoned, three teachers, who taught it along with fencing, and judo have been removed, and rifles have been turned back. He has also told how baseball at this particular school continued to be played all during the war.

"Unlike some of the schools we do not consider it an enemy sport," he has said. "To our way of thinking baseball is international."

Prefer Baseball to Drill

So now you ask the youngsters clustered around you: "Which would you rather do—play baseball or do military drill?"

The answer comes back in thumping unanimous chorus: "Play baseball."

"Do you like school now better than during the war?" you ask.

"Yes," they reply. "We don't have all that military stuff and discipline now."

So here we have one school's reaction to the new teachings brought in by the Americans.

One hundred miles from Tokyo, at Mito higher school for boys are another group, who went on strike until the militaristic head-teacher was forced to resign.

American education officers with whom I have talked are encouraged by the example of these schools but not inclined to generalize. They say that, undoubtedly there are numerous other schools that are not yet so well on the way to demilitarization. Even the boys at Kudan and Mito, they think, perhaps are motivated not so much by sincere anti-militarism as by the normal growing boy's laziness, that welcomes an opportunity to escape drill and discipline.

Another interesting factor in the education picture here at present is that food rather than ideology is the principal cause of the controversy which has set off a string of school strikes, running clear to Hokkaido. The students protested against the practice of head teachers, who make them work in the school garden and then keep all their produce for their own households. Students at Kodama agriculture school signed in blood their demand for dismissal of the two teachers.

No History, Geography

The teaching problem, in general, is confused by the ordered change-over from militarist ways. Two ticklish subjects are Japanese history and geography. Toshima told me that Kudan middle school was not teaching either one until they get more detailed instructions from the ministry of education.

The boys at the Kudan playground showed the effects of their militarist indoctrination. I asked them what they thought of G. I.'s. They laughed and babbled. The interpreter said: "They can't get over how sloppy, slaphappy and unsoldierlike they are. Not at all like Japanese soldiers."

Then I asked if they would rather wear military youth uniforms, such as they had on, or civilian clothes. One little one popped up with: "I'd rather have a black uniform."

The interpreter tried to explain it away by saying: "All youngsters wore black school uniforms before the war, which was a good thing because then there was no difference between rich and poor."

Americans whom I consulted had another version. "Black school uniforms were another way in which the militarists got across their appeal."

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STRAUSS SAYS:



THEY (the boys) wouldn't let me in their advertisement—So I have to be on the edge here—like I am in the Shop. I have my own Shop—for YOUNG LADIES, it is—and there are some beautiful COTTON WASHABLE DRESSES here. Lots of other things, too!

OREGON MAN HEADS DISABLED VETERANS

CHICAGO, Oct. 24 (U. P.).—Don V. Walker, Newport, Ore., an army major in the first world war, yesterday took over as national commander of the Disabled American Veterans, meeting in annual convention here.

Sgt. Harold Dixon, Mount Ranier, Md., who lost both legs in Aachen, Germany, became the first world war II veteran to be elevated to a top D. A. V. office when he was named first junior vice commander.

The 1500 delegates passed a resolution asking the war and navy departments to pay premiums on all government insurance policies for six months after service discharge. The resolution said many policies had been dropped because veterans were unable to meet the payments.

Thousands Take Tests in Southern City's Health Campaign

By Science Service

SAVANNAH, Ga., Oct. 24.—Thousands of men and women from every walk in life are lining up at health centers here to wait their turn for chest X-rays and blood tests as this Southern city wages a 45-day campaign against tuberculosis and venereal disease.

The campaign, scheduled to run from Oct. 15 to Nov. 30, is breaking records for disease fighting. It is the first time in public health history that syphilis and tuberculosis have been combined in case-finding. While Birmingham, Ala., pioneered last spring in a mass attack on syphilis and gonorrhea, the campaign there resulted from a state law requiring blood tests, and treatment where needed, for all persons between the ages of 14 and 50 years.

Savannah citizens are showing that no law is needed to make people take these important steps for protecting their own and their community's health. The campaign here is on a voluntary basis. Yet in the first four days of the campaign 5719 chests have been X-rayed to detect tuberculosis and 5719 blood samples have been taken to test for syphilis.

The blood testing laboratory, set up to run 1000 tests a day, has already had to be reorganized and enlarged to handle more than twice that number daily.

At one center, on the third evening of the campaign, men and women stood in line for three hours waiting of their own accord for the rushed staff of doctors and nurses to get the X-ray pictures made and the blood samples taken.

"TB can be cured in its early stages. An X-ray today may save your life tomorrow."

When you read that message on eight-foot high posters on the main business streets of your town, see it repeated in streetcar cards and in the newspaper and hear it over the radio, you take action, it appears from the overwhelming response here. Whether you are a member of the women's auxiliary of the state medical society or a Negro laborer living in a public housing project, you follow the directions on the poster and go to the health center or your physician. Here, as in Birmingham last spring, the streets and cars are also placarded with the notice that treatment of syphilis with penicillin can be completed in nine days

and that blood tests will be given at the health center.

Syphilis patients go to the U. S. public health service's rapid treatment hospital. Tuberculosis patients go to another hospital for the rest and other measures that are part of the modern treatment of this disease.

Examination and penicillin treatment for gonorrhea is also being given but is not the featured part of the campaign.

"STORPEDO" HOLDS FOOD

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24.—"Storpedo" is the name applied in Australia to a bomb-shaped container for dropping food and equipment to isolated troops; it is carried in the bomb racks of some airplanes and parachuted to the earth.

HOUSE UNAMERICAN PROBERS ACCUSED

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24 (U. P.).—Rep. Ellis E. Patterson (D. Cal.) revealed the strategy today for his fight to abolish what he calls the "intimidating, gestapo-like" house unAmerican activities committee.

Accusing the committee itself of making "unAmerican" attack on the freedoms of speech and press, Patterson said he was circulating a petition to force a house vote on long - pigeonholed legislation to abolish the committee.

Patterson declared he was "confident" of getting the 218 signatures required for the petition. Supporters of the committee were equally confident that he "hasn't a chance."

STRAUSS SAYS:

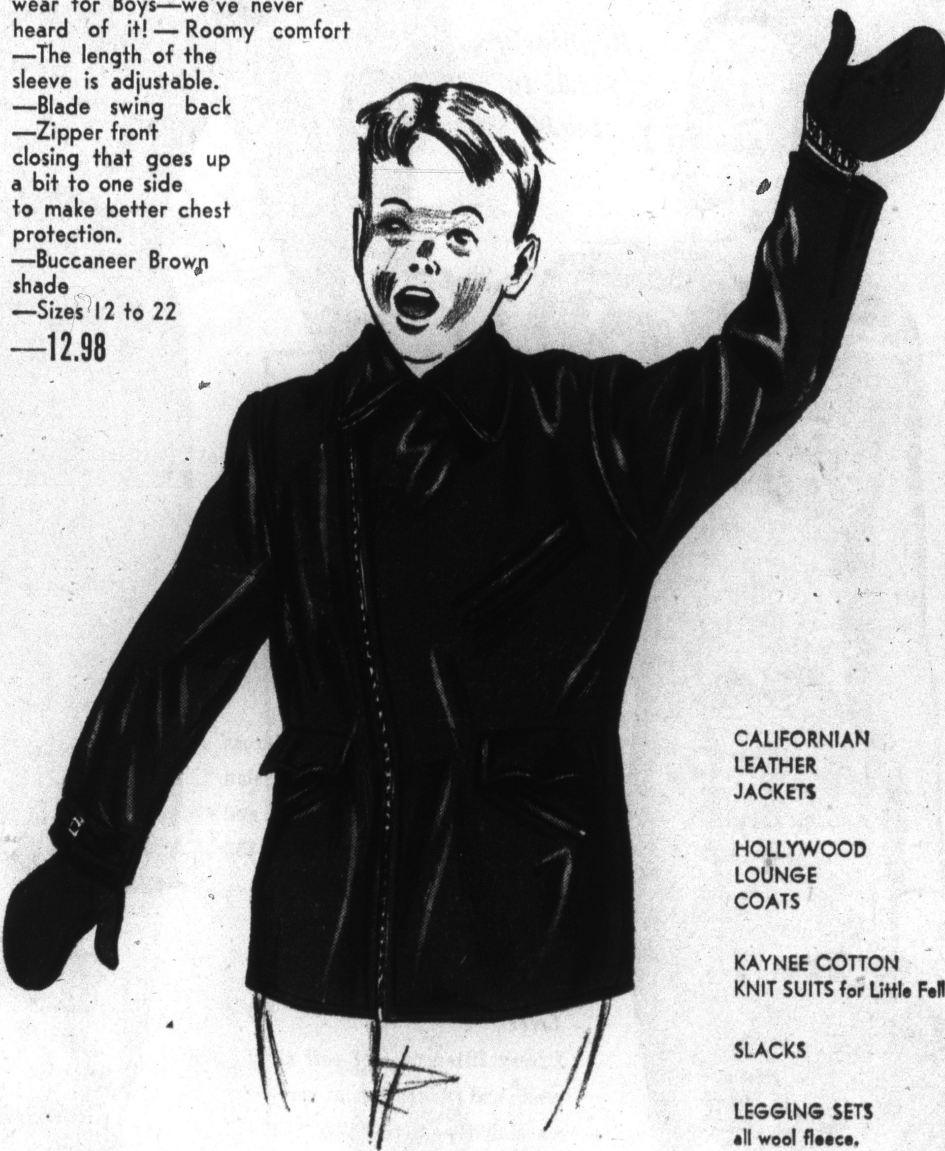
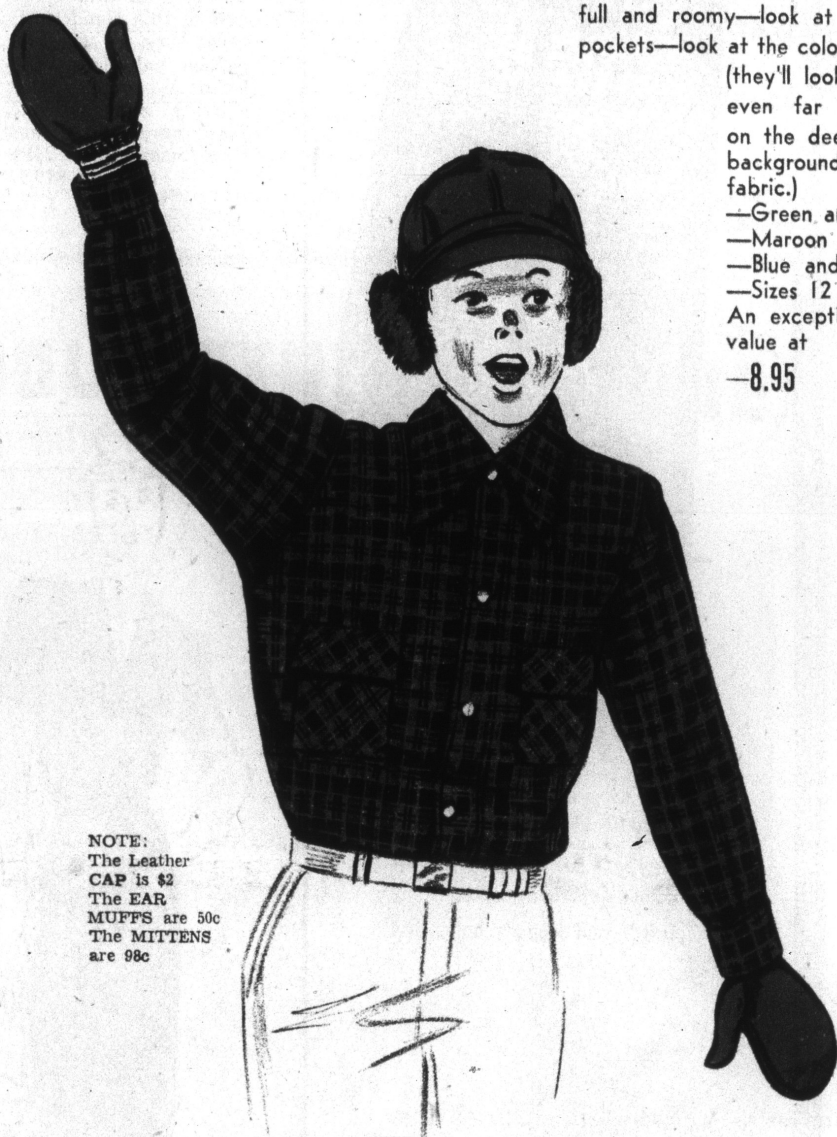
If it's something extra special
from the Waist up—

It's Gotta Be

T-H-I-S _____ OR T-H-A-T!

is a Wool Plaid Shirt and it's a honey! It's all Wool—cut full and roomy—look at the flap pockets—look at the colorings—(they'll look even far better on the deep background of the fabric.)
—Green and Brown
—Maroon and Red
—Blue and Grey
—Sizes 12 to 20
An exceptional value at
—8.95

is a Leather Jacket—it comes from Monarch—And if there's a better outfit that makes rugged wear for Boys—we've never heard of it!—Roomy comfort—The length of the sleeve is adjustable.
—Blade swing back
—Zipper front
closing that goes up a bit to one side to make better chest protection.
—Buccaneer Brown shade
—Sizes 12 to 22
—12.98



NOTE:
The Leather
CAP is \$2
The EAR
MUFFS are 50c
The MITTENS
are 98c

CALIFORNIAN
LEATHER
JACKETS

HOLLYWOOD
LOUNGE
COATS

KAYNEE COTTON
KNIT SUITS for Little Fellows

SLACKS

LEGGING SETS
all wool fleeces.

DOBBS HAT
SHOP—
and
ETON CAPS
SKI CAPS
EAR MUFF CAPS
"BUCKETS"
JOCKEY CAPS

PLASTIC
BELTS

SLEEVELESS
SWEATERS

RAIN AND
TRENCHCOATS
plaid cotton
lined.

BLUE
DENIM
DUNGAREES

SUSPENDERS
NECKWEAR
HOSIERY
WOOL and
LEATHER GLOVES

MITTENS
waterproof BUCKSKIN
and HORSEHIDE
Bright colored LASKINS—
LEATHER GAUNTLETS.

SCOUT SHOP
Outfitters to
BOY SCOUTS
AIR SCOUTS
SEA SCOUTS
EXPLORER SCOUTS
CUB SCOUTS

NATURALLY—JUNIOR FEELS VERY GOOD ABOUT IT ALL!

The Thought of the School Teachers' Convention makes Junior happy—
(he is even happier when those days arrive.)

He knows that Conventions are good for people—They get together they learn things by exchanging experiences and viewpoints
—they listen to very sage and philosophic themes that deal with
—students' intricate mental processes.

It makes him feel very good that Teachers have the privilege and the opportunity of meeting together—of discussing such a tremendously important subject. (Meaning himself.)

Of course—it could not be that Junior is happy
at the prospect of a vacation.

Maybe he is going to have fun—(what do you mean "maybe.")

Maybe he is going to enjoy the great out-of-doors
—"Slide the jive" with fellow students—maybe (what do you mean maybe)—he is going to Strauss—as is his annual custom
—and get fixed up for clothes to fend off
winter's Whistling Winds.

It makes him feel good to have such a Shop that is a

Man's Man Shop—thoroughly masculine in its viewpoints
and in the clothing it presents. REET? REET!

SAMPECK
SUITS and
COATS and
SPORTS JACKETS.

SAMPECK
"CHARLTON"
models for
heavier fellows.

UNDER-GRAD
SUITS

MONARCH
JACKETS and
MACKINAWs

MONARCH
CAPEKIN
JACKETS

"FINGERTIPS"
WINTER COATS

L. STRAUSS & COMPANY, INC., BOYS' SHOPS, SECOND FLOOR

L. STRAUSS & CO., Inc.