

Like the Bamboo, Japanese Regain Stature After Gale

By KING WILLIAMS

Traditional Japanese philosophy labels the bamboo tree "wise" because unlike the sturdy oak that breaks off in the typhoon winds, it bends with the gale and when the storm subsides gradually regains its equilibrium.

The bamboo tree serves the Japanese in a thousand ways and that willowy product of nature, so plastic under adversity, seems to find affinity in the people of our Western ally in the Far East.

On our first call at Yokohama we missed by two days typhoon Vera, worst in a long list of typhoons that have hit the island empire. On our return three weeks later, we saw some of the ravages of the tornado-like storm and thousands at work quietly rebuilding their fragile homes and shops. Like the "wise bamboo" they were recovering from disaster, still on their knees but getting ready to walk upright.

JAPAN IS changing so rapidly under Western influence, the traditional way of life exemplified in the kimono soon may become as obsolete and hard to find as a horse outside Hollywood.

Old Japan is still in the temples and the garden and there are still thousands of Japanese—men and women—who wear the colorful and remarkably dignified kimono. To a large extent the man of the house still is monarch but he is los-

ing his historic privileges at a rate that must be disconcerting to masculine diehards.

OUT OF THE tradition-bound past and the ashes of World War II a new Japan is arising so rapidly it is all but unbelievable even when one is an eye witness. Most of the young Japanese seem to like American ways and they have adopted them with a vigor that has his parents a little bewildered but willing to bend with the storms of change and be philosophically hopeful of a future.

The average Japanese adult seems to be willing to talk about the fair treatment administered their defeated country under General MacArthur's occupation than they are about Pearl Harbor or the atomic bomb.

THEY EXPECTED the worst but received helpful, humane treatment from the Army of Occupation. Their emperor was allowed to keep his limited powers with exalted position and the women were given the right to vote along with other equalities some cannot even today realize they have.

Always industrious, Japan has not only recovered from the ravages of war but has attained a prosperity that has astonished the whole world. Completely defeated only 13 years ago, they have found prosperity to an extent that

Japan is now a lender nation with favorable balances in all of the free world's banks. There is still much poverty and low wages by our standards but the average Japanese family is far better than on Dec. 7, 1941.

THE EMPEROR of Japan has an exalted position in the eyes of most of his countrymen but he is virtually powerless to decide anything of importance affecting their daily lives. He lives now in what was the bomb shelter of the former imperial palace, having made a pledge that he would not build new quarters until every Japanese had a new roof over his head.

This attitude has increased the peoples' respect for their titular leader. And last year the royal family scored a universal hit by encouraging the marriage of the crown prince to a commoner.

AS A RECOGNIZED political party the communists have made no important strides in Japan during the last year. The few among Japan's 90 millions are vocal, to be sure, and the government constantly is under pressure to resume trade relations with Red China.

The man in the street, though, seems to be more fearful of communism than of another world war and gives small heed to the parading college students or labor groups who stage sporadic demonstrations. Usually these demonstrations are against the new Japanese constitution which outlawed war and communism and, according to the Red sympathizers, was dictated by the United States.

We saw a demonstration in Yokohama that our guide claimed was unique in Japanese history. Some 40,000 men and women were marching

side by side carrying banners protesting communist influences in the teachers' union, one of the strongest in Japan. He told us this demonstration was unique because the men had joined their wives in the demonstration, something, he

thought, was brand new. The well behaved marchers were circling the schools of the city carrying banners in a protest that was a model of decorum.

CITIES LIKE Kyoto and the more remote agrarian districts

still are bulwarks of Old Japan and probably will remain so, either through a matter of course or by government decree. Tokyo, Osaka, Kobe and Nagoya are thriving metropolitan centers with business districts much like an American

city.

But even in these great cities—Tokyo the largest in population in the world—a bamboo and paper shack may have its thatched roof catching adding

machine tapes from the windows of tall steel and concrete office buildings or super deluxe hotel and department stores.

That is Japan today.

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Members of the class completed their study of America's newest state with an open house and "quiz program" to show what they had learned. Both children and parents wore Hawaiian costumes, and refreshments, island style, were served. During the quiz program, children told parents about island life—how they were formed, and about indus-

tries, people and customs. The teacher visited Hawaii last summer. Michael Cooke was master of ceremonies, while Debbie Ellison performed a hula.

CANCER UNDER STUDY
The Life History Research Study recently launched by the American Cancer Society will not only probe the effects of environment on cancer, but is expected to uncover deeper knowledge about symptoms which can lead to improved techniques of vital early detection.

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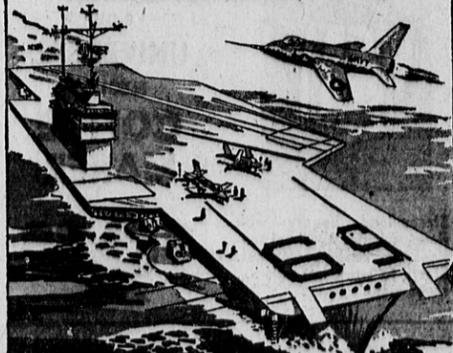
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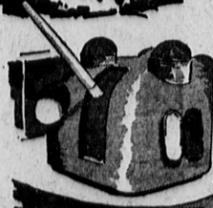


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