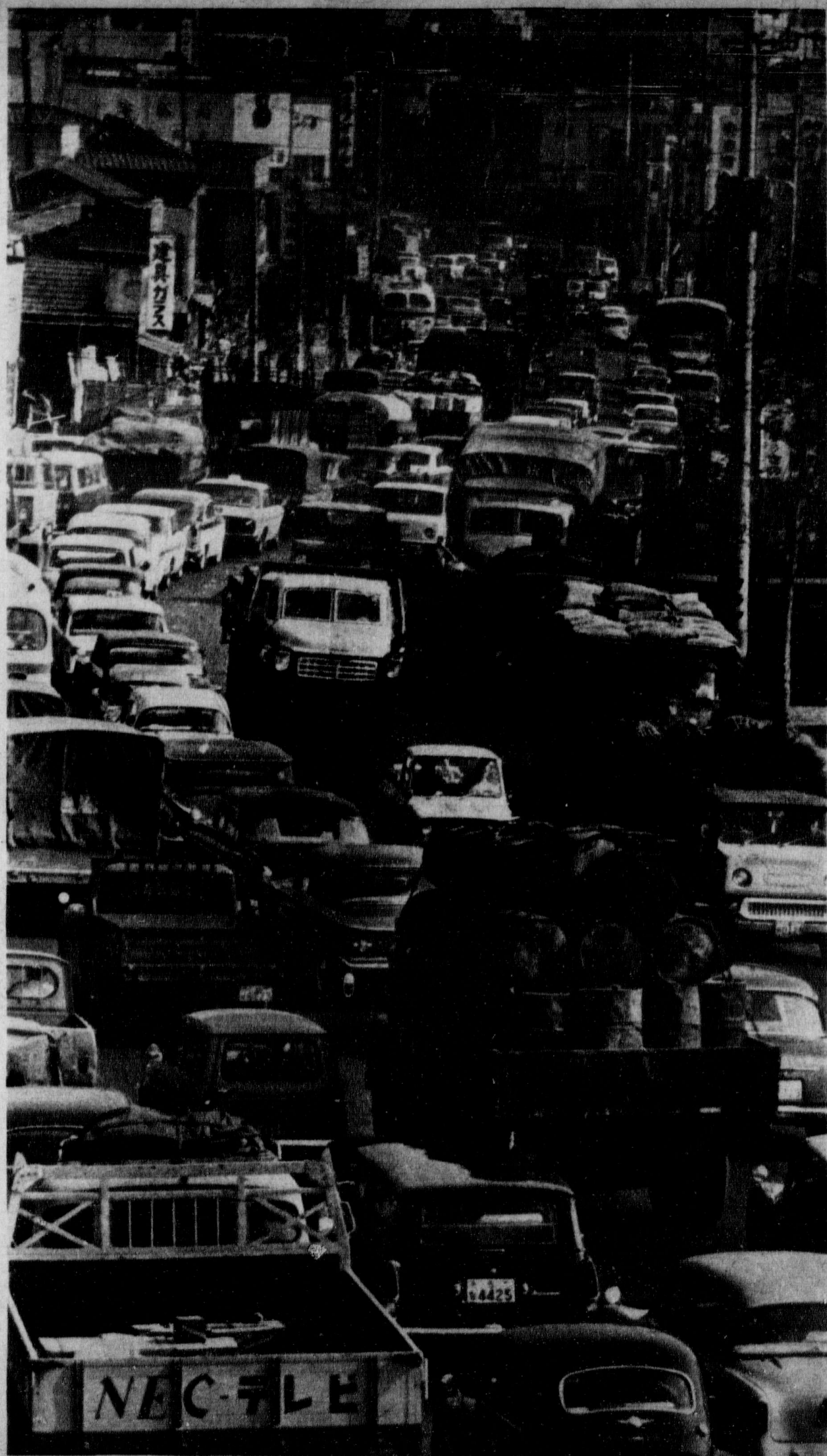




TRAFFIC'S SO BAD IN TOKYO...

*Though it's only seven
miles to the airport
from downtown, the trip
takes about 90 minutes*

■ "Getting there" is no fun at all for the traveller in Tokyo since the city's narrow streets, built for scurrying, kimono-clad pedestrians and creaking ox-carts, have been crowded instead by western-suited Japanese and Detroit-style cars. Again, Tokyo's metropolitan area has a population in excess of 10 millions and 800,000 motor vehicles, not to mention several million more inhabitants plus 180,000 cars in neighboring cities.

As a result, Haneda airport, only seven miles from the heart of Tokyo, is an hour and a half's drive.

Every day 36 million Japanese ride trains. At one four-track crossing in Tokyo, it is a normal count for 70 trains with long lines of cars to pass in an hour. Each car holds 100 passengers—officially, but about 350 commuters can pack the cars, shoehorned in by "pushers"—stout students employed at 150 yen (43c) an hour to stand on platforms of principal stations and shove.

Japan's railways' lost-and-found warehouses are laden with nearly 2,000,000 items, mostly wrist watches, umbrellas, books, underwear, overcoats, also false teeth and false eyeballs, even burial urns, all ripped away from owners. Many commuters lose their shoes.

THE GOTANDA area, left, turns into a real bottleneck each weekend and stalls traffic half an hour

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