

Entertainment



A variety of businesses opened up shops to form a commercial quarter around Shibetsu Station. The entertainment district was lively with the sounds of music playing from phonographs in front of restaurants, banquet halls, and cafes. Theaters also flourished throughout the area presenting films and performances of plays. These films were the number one source of entertainment until the use of televisions became widespread in the area. From the Taisho period into the Showa period, affluent families who could afford a phonograph began to emerge and records became widespread in the area.



After the Pacific War, various other forms of entertainment would gain popularity in the area together with the spread of television as popular culture. It became possible to watch television broadcasts in Shibetsu in 1958. The town was lively with the operation of cafes and other amusement centers such as bowling alleys.

As life in the area began to shift to more a car-based society in the late Showa period, there was also a shift in popular culture to something more individualistic that emphasized personal preferences. Consequently, there came an increase in family cars being used to leave the city for things like entertainment and leisure.

