

# Japanese students really study, says exchange student Hall

Karen Hall was not exactly ready for the studious life of a Japanese student but she got used to it. Since she was living in Japan, she had to.

"They study all the time over there. It's their life," said Karen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Hall, 5825 Main Street, Deford.

The Cass City High School student spent her junior year studying in Kyoto, Japan, as part of the Rotary foreign exchange program. The city is located in central Japan and is one of the more populous cities in a country with bad overcrowding problems.

Life in Japan was different

in many aspects but the difference she noticed most was how much her fellow students studied. The reason they studied so hard had to do with their parents, according to Karen.

"All of it over there is the parents yelling at them to 'Study, Study, Study!'"

Karen studied more than she normally did at Cass City but admits she did not hit the books as heavily as her friends.

"Most of them, if they are good students, would study 4-5 hours a day," she explained.

WITH SO MUCH TIME spent on their lessons, Japanese students rarely

had time, or the opportunity, to get out.

Most teenagers are not allowed to date until they are 18 and most have personal curfews of 8 or 9 p.m.

A student's social life revolves around any one of a number of clubs they may belong to. Everyone must belong to at least one.

Karen belonged to the volleyball club which practiced every day after school until 7 p.m. By the time she got home and ate supper, Karen admitted she was usually too tired to do anything else even if she wanted to.

When she would go out with friends it was often on Sunday afternoon. That is their one day off a week from school.

Favorite activities included visiting local tourist attractions and going to the movies.

Karen said most current American movies are running in Japan. The only difference is they have Japanese characters printed along the side.

THE LANGUAGE BARRIER was one that Karen found easier to overcome than she expected.

Her "Japanese father," the head of the family she was staying with, spoke English as did a few teachers. In addition, when she first got there people were very helpful in finding someone who could speak English if they could not.

But getting along in everyday life is not easy unless one knows the language and Karen said she worked to learn Japanese quickly.

"I didn't rely on people

who knew English, I could speak fluently in three months."

After awhile, she said she even began to think in her new-found tongue and had trouble readjusting to English when she came home.

THE SWITCH FROM DEFORD to Kyoto, a city of 1.5 million people, posed more problems for Karen than the language. But she said people helped her get used to her new home.

"My 'dad' was an inspiration. He would say where we'll meet for something and he'd draw me a map and say 'be there.'"

"Well, I'd be there but sometimes it would take a while," she said.

One thing she found curious about her Japanese friends was the fact they acted what Karen considered "childish." But she was quick to explain.

"They all wear Mickey Mouse shoes, carry Snoopy bags and Ziggy notebooks. Over here you would do that when you're a little kid but over there even guys 18 years old carry Snoopy bookbags around."

Among the classes she took in Japan were physical education, computers and math. She also took typing, which turned out to be an interesting experience.

"All the characters were in Japanese and to try to remember the keys in Japanese was difficult."

Her Japanese friends were somewhat less emotional than Karen, particularly at such things as athletic events.

"They used to look at me

because I'd be yelling at a game or something, getting really rowdy like we do over here. But in Japan they just don't do that," she said.

AMONG THE GIFTS Karen brought back were two kimonos, the traditional Japanese garb. One was a formal outfit costing approximately \$350, and the other was simpler, made of cotton.

The formal gown made of silk and hand-stitched, was bought with Christmas money from her parents and money she received in Japan for New Year's.

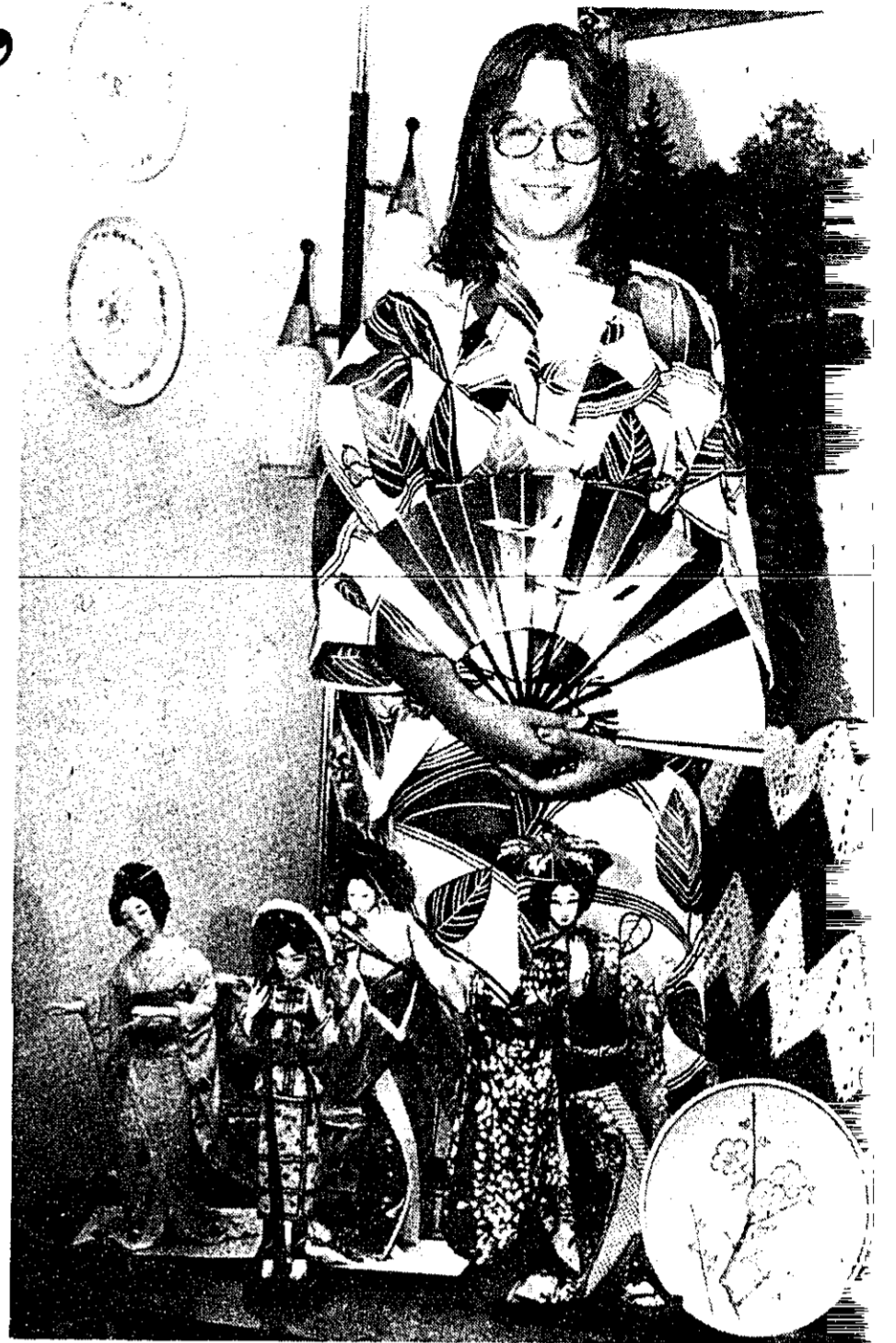
She explained that New Year's is the major holiday but instead of gifts, most children receive money.

Karen credits her Japanese parents for helping her get along in the country.

They would sit down and talk over different views and if Karen wanted to go somewhere and they said no, the reasons for their decisions would be fully explained, she recalled.

The family had a daughter, who was also part of the Rotary Exchange program, living in Indiana.

"It was like they treated me the way they wanted their daughter treated in America," she said.



THE SAME FINERY THAT drew explorers from the West is displayed by Karen Hall, who returned recently from spending a year in Japan.

## Power loss closes Walbro

Walbro production line workers at the Garfield Street plant got an unexpected afternoon off Monday due to a power failure.

About 50 customers in the Garfield Street area were without power, according to Warren Schimmell of Detroit Edison, which went off at 11:35 a.m.

The cause of the outage was reportedly a bulldozer being used on the Garfield Street reconstruction project, which struck a utility pole guy wire, which broke, flipped up and knocked out a primary power cable.

As it wasn't known when power would come back on,

according to Don Tonti, Walbro director of human resources, production workers were sent home. Most office workers stayed.

The outage also knocked out the telephone switchboard, with an emergency line the only one on which calls could get through.

North of Garfield Street, a General Cable spokesman said, power was out for only a couple of minutes. The firm's building on the south side was without power, however.

Power to the entire area was restored at 2:02 p.m., Schimmell said. The downed cable was close to Doerr Road.

## Schools announce openings

Continued from page one

days to be considered for eligibility.

Wendall Honsinger of Vassar has been hired to direct the instrumental music program. Lynn Keber of Alanson, Mich., will teach junior high English, coach girls' softball and act as the cheerleaders' advisor. Jeanne Eilers of Ubyly has been hired as the resource room instructor and Joyce Marquardt of Sandusky will teach one section of kindergarten at Minden City.

The summer maintenance program included a considerable amount of painting and new shingles on the Minden City School roof.

## Bigfoot walks softly if at all

If it was Bigfoot, he or she treads very softly.

Ray Finley of 4242 English Road, Kingston, told Caro state police Tuesday night, Aug. 12, that he was investigating noises on his property when he saw a man-like figure walking toward his garden.

He was carrying a shotgun because he has had trouble with persons stealing gasoline from his vehicles, so when he saw the figure, he fired over its head.

The subject started running towards the woods. Finley fired again but the subject escaped.

Finley told troopers "he did not think the thing he shot at was a man but was some kind of hairy animal" that was growling and snarling when it ran towards the woods.

Officers looked in the vicinity of where Finley had fired at the subject but could not find any footprints.

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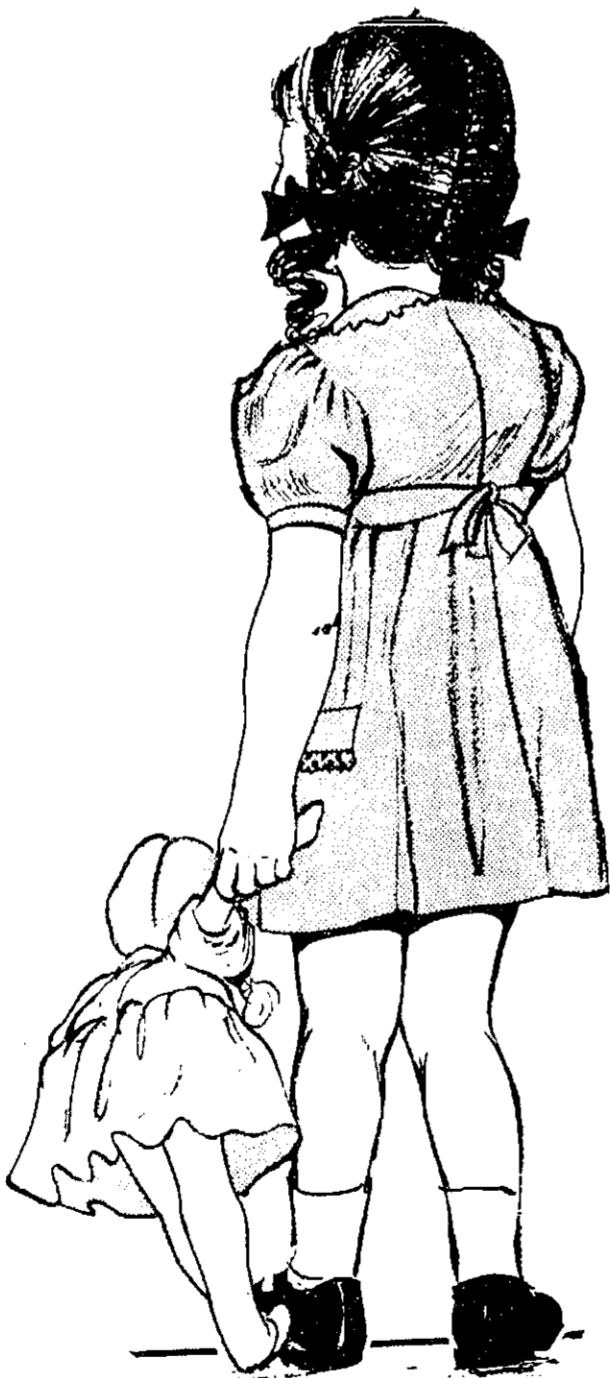
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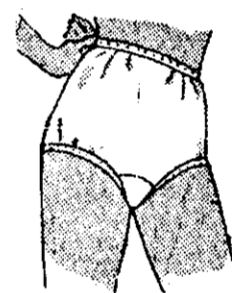
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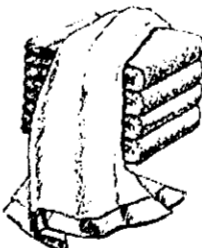
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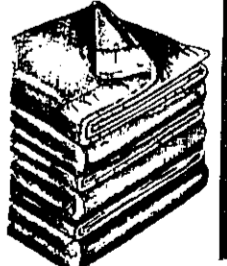
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