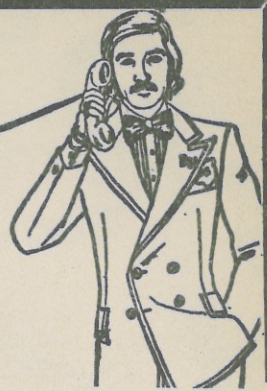


Bill Hersey's

PARTY NEWS



I can't believe the last few days (knocking this out Thursday the 16th). A few weeks ago I got a call from a friend of my brother Chris, **Mimi Stein**, one of California's biggest real estate agents. She and companions were in Hong Kong on a Christie antiques tour. They had planned to come to Tokyo but because of business, Mimi had to fly back; she asked if I could show her friend **Ruth Fleshmen** around town. I really enjoyed meeting Ruth, a very chic lady who, among other things, has a ski lodge in Aspen; it was fun to take her around.

It turned out her close friend is **Ben Joelson**, producer of the popular "Love Boat" TV series; they had met in Hong Kong where an episode was being filmed. She contacted him and when they arrived in Japan from Peking, he called me. At that time I was leaving for Manila, but we set up a Tokyo meeting when I came back. The meeting turned out to be a small press reception where I not only got to meet the regular cast (crew) of "Love Boat," but the guest stars as well.

They included **Tony Danza** ("Taxi"), **John Ritter** ("Three's Company"), **Harvey Korman** ("Carol Burnett Show") **Heather Thomas** ("Fallguy"), **Jean Marsh** ("Upstairs Downstairs"), **Mariette Hartley** ("Polaroid CMs" and "Beantown U.S.A."), **John Ritter's** actress wife **Nancy Morgan** and one of my all-time favorites, **Rita Moreno** (an Oscar for "West Side Story" and currently in the TV series "9 to 5").

Talk about lucky . . . I got

to know most of them pretty well and spend considerable time with them during their stay here. More on that later.

Still more beautiful people in town . . . **The Dance Theater of Harlem**, here for the second Japan tour under the sponsorship of the Nippon Culture Center. More on them later, as well.

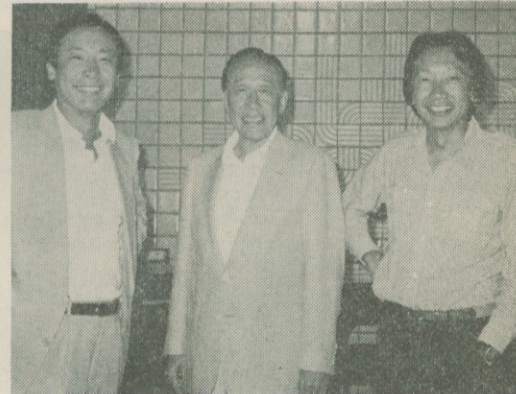
Then there was the promotional visit for CIC of **Roger Moore** and **Maude Adams** to promote the latest in the Bond film series, "Octopussy." The film opens around town July 2 and is full of fun and action.

I also had the opportunity to see a preview of "The Return of the Jedi," and show the producer **Howard Kanzenjari**, director **Richard Marquand** and actor **Tony Daniels** (whom you know as C3PO) around . . . Spago's, the Lex, etc. That's a film you don't want to miss.

Then there's super singer **Rita Coolidge**, here to help in the "Octopussy" promotion. She was brought over by Alpha Records, and does the theme song for the film.

Over Shinjuku way, **The American Dance Machine**, under the direction of **Lee Theodore**, kicking up their heels in a very exciting program of dances at Koma's Apple Theater. This city really is a happening!

It was a Happy Birthday for rock star **Billy Squier** when Toshiba EMI (his record company) threw a birthday bash



Sanae Cropp shows latest collection to full house at TAC

Above, left: **Kimiko Ohira** (daughter-in-law of the former prime minister of Japan) and popular designer **Sanae Cropp**. Above, right: **Paul Ma**, flanked by his two sons **Johnny**, visiting Tokyo from Hong Kong, and **Tommy** who works with Northwest Airlines here. Nice people, the Ma family! Below, left:

Proud papa **Paul Hughes** (Revlon President for the Far East and Canada) cuddles his little son **Paul Jr.** Little Paul's mom **Jessica** was one of Sanae's models in the show. Below, right: **Barbara Penrose** (she provided the accessories for the show), **Eli Lynum**, **Eva Larsen** and **Cathie Yonke**.



for the fast-ascending singer-guitar player at the Lex. The place was wall-to-wall people with models, musicians, local film stars and a host of Billy's other fans. There was a show, Billy blew out the candles on no less than four cakes and everyone boogied on into the night. The man and the guys in his band are really a great bunch of talented guys and we enjoyed celebrating with them.

Fiji is one of those places I haven't been to, but plan to

Above: **Maria Elisa Yanagihara**, **Yuki Margot** of **Yuya Boutique**, **Lilo Maruyama** and **Sharon Smith**.

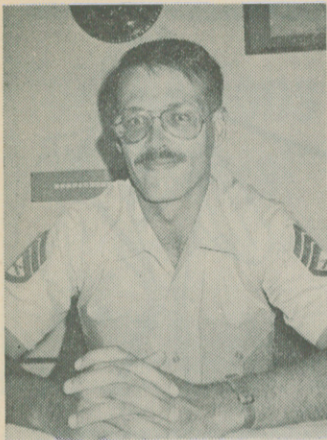


Fiji promotional party: a fantastic success

Counterclockwise, from left: **Peter Thomson** of the Fiji Embassy; **Bob Hagley**, head of Southern Pacific Hotels in Japan; the host Fiji Ambassador **Jioji Kotobalavu** and *The Mainichi Daily News'* **Holli Ferretti**. **John Sumner** of the New Zealand Tourist Bureau, **Qantas'** personable man-in-Japan **Frank Nicol** and **Mike Sano**, head of Air New Zealand

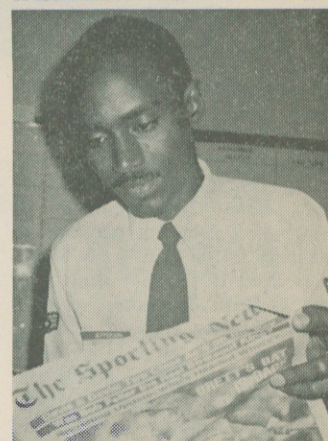
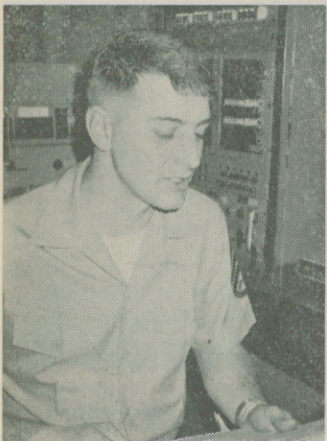
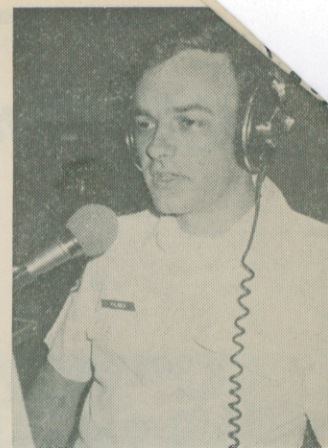
here. **Mike Hirota**, director of Japan-Fiji Friendship Association; **Adi Talatoka Kotobalavu**, wife of the Fijian Ambassador, and **M.B. Gucake**, General Manager for the Fiji Visitors' Bureau. **Peter Erbsleben** of United Touring, **Dr. Eugene Aksenoff** and **William C. Nyholt**, General Manager, **Naviti Beach Resorts** in Fiji.





News & Sports

The FEN news team keeps listeners informed of the latest in current events. Top row, left to right: News Chief Larry Crutchfield and Sr. Ann. Denise Waggoner, both set to leave this year, Navy Journalist Christina Parkison and, well, country boy Jim Palmer. Bottom row: Okinawa Marine Jim Martin, heard weekday afternoons; Navy vet Gary Lee; morning news reader Jim Odom and Robert Jefferson, brushing up on names in *The Sporting News* for his noon sports report.



One who is not leaving FEN, and maybe never will, is "phrase of the day" girl Hiroko Kubota whose little language goes a loooooong way.

weekend program which, like all FEN-produced shows, carries those ubiquitous spot announcements. Marine Dave Silcox is the man responsible for production of said spots, and he'll be the voice heard opposite Andy Adams when *sumo* coverage resumes with the *Aki Bashi* in Tokyo in September.

To Hassing, Levy, Waggoner and the others moving on, we'll use AFRTS' Don Tracy's signoff and say, "Later, lovers." For those staying a while, let's take Charlie's advice and "Stay Tuna-ed."

is carried network-wide. The pronunciation of names has improved due largely to a campaign by Crutchfield which includes a five-minute "audition" newscast, spiced with commonly misread names, given to all newcomers. "Mistakes will still occur," says Larry, "especially in sports where you have, for example, more than 600 Major League ballplayers with long-named rookies coming up all the time." Two common misses are baseball's Ivan de Jesus, often read as in Ivan the Great and Jesus Christ, and hockey's Henri Richard as Henry Richard—as in Pryor.

On the music side of the house, Air Force T/Sgt. Will Norris is the new "Easy Riser," heard weekdays 6:05 to 9 a.m. Will comes from Dallas and is an 11-year AF vet. On off-duty time, Norris is making a serious attempt to learn the Japanese language.

The next local show is the 11:05 to noon "Daytrekker" yen rate, weather report and music offering. Navy people Cynthia Vanderkooi Lee and

Phil Tucker take turns at the board for this one. Cynthia is from Utah and the wife of newsman Gary and mother of four-month-old Jason, a future announcer for sure.

Phil is from California and, besides a "Daytrekker" or two a week, he works the "East of Midnight" hard rock number on occasion. When Phil is not on the graveyard shift, Navy Journalist Cheri Gardiner does the midnight to 2 a.m. stint. Cheri claims two hometowns—Atlanta, Ga., and Pueblo, Colo.

Former news team member Paula Leclaire spins the sounds of Men At Work, Kajagoogoo and other Top 40 songs, as well as oldies, on the 4:05 to 6 p.m. "Kanto Scene" every Monday through Friday.

Then there's the show with the best title of all—the "Weekender"—heard weekend mornings and hosted by Air Force Sgt. Tim Johnston, a bright-eyed native of Seattle who works in FEN-TV's production room during the week.

Air Force Sgt. Marsha Barnhart runs the "Prime Cuts"

Tachikawa reader confirms identity of FEN 'Christmas in Paddies' author

To the Editor:

I'm writing this hoping that you still have the unsolved question of the author of the Christmas poem, "Christmas in the Paddies." I happened to read the article in *Tokyo Weekender*, Dec. 31, 1982, in a bunch of old newspapers at a friend's home quite accidentally.

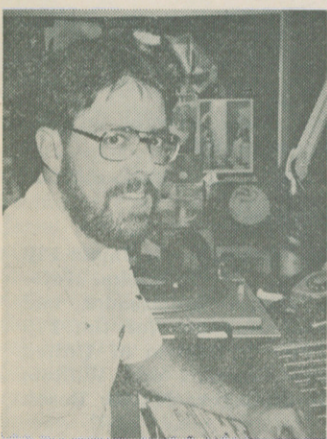
The author is Jeane Lovering, wife of ex-Capt. Arthur G. Lovering, assigned to NAMAP (Northern Air Material Area, Pacific), Tachikawa AB, in the early 1960s.

He and I worked together in the same outfit for five or six years, and Jeane was active with the Officers' Wives Club. The poem in question appeared in the *Tachikawa Marauder* (base newspaper) and *Pacific Stars and Stripes*.

The Loverings were quite instrumental in organizing the Tachikawa-San Bernardino, Calif., Sister City affiliation which still continues. I was secretary of the Sister City Committee, Tachikawa, and associated with them through the committee activities. They are doing fine, enjoying their retired life in San Bernardino.

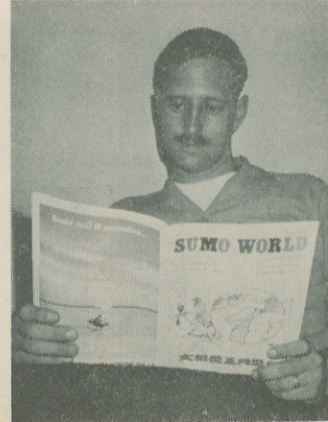
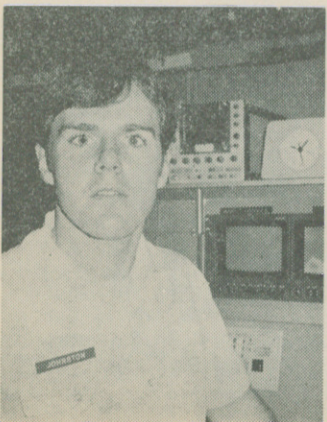
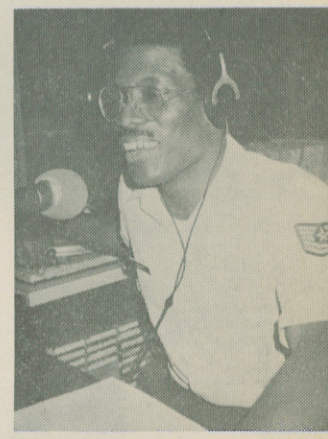
Hope this will give a little light to your questions and may result in more reminiscing about that nice little poem.

HIROSHI SATO
Tachikawa



Music & Info

The Far East Network's staff of deejays plays the latest sounds and never lets you forget the yen rate at military banking facilities in Japan. Top row, left to right: Sailors Phil Tucker and Cheri Gardiner alternate on the "East of Midnight" hard rocker. Paula Leclaire takes a request for the Friday edition of her popular "Kanto Scene" show. Will Norris cracks a joke on the "Easy Riser" wake-up number. Bottom row, left to right: Tim Johnston opens his eyes wide weekend mornings on the "Weekender." Cynthia Vanderkooi Lee runs the "Daytrekker" some weekdays and minds the board Saturdays and Sundays. Dave Silcox studies an edition of *Sumo World* in preparation for his debut as Andy Adams' partner on live *sumo* coverage come September. AF Sgt. Martha Barnhart spins "Prime Cuts" every Saturday.



Weekender



MOVIES:

'Return of the Jedi'

And here we go again, Friends of the Force, up against the dreaded sheer evil of The Empire, all the stalwart rebels battling outer-space tyranny in a galaxy far, far away. The entire group is present and accounted for in this, the third epic battle between the galactical good guys and the no-conscience baddies that **George Lucas** dreamed up a decade ago to thrill countless millions around the globe in his "Star Wars" trilogy.

Right there struggling and showing commendable valor for the hard-pressed rebels are Han Solo (**Harrison Ford**), the devil-may-care outer-space hustler; Luke Skywalker (**Mark Hamill**), the pure-in-heart descendent of the Jedi Knights who aspires to that lofty position himself; Princess Leia (**Carrie Fisher**), the delicate but gutsy little battler simultaneously juggling a war with evil and a sticky love triangle with Han and Luke; Lando Calrissian (**Billy Dee Williams**), the dashing and fearless general of the rebel forces, in command of the all-out assault on the new Empirical space station, more impregnable than ever; Chewbacca, the giant muppet who is Han's pal and pilot extraordinaire; C3PO and R2D2, the lovable little mechanical fighters for justice; Yoda, the gnome-like Force-ful philosopher, at death's door as it turns out, and the shade of Ben (Obi-Wan) Kenobi (**Alec Guinness**) who continues to turn up just when Luke needs him most.

On the dark side of mankind's spirit, we have the Empire's minions, including the

evil, depraved Emperor himself (**Ian McDiarmid**) who stalks about the space station in Franciscan-like monk's robes; the personification of evil Darth Vader (**James Earl Jones**, voice); **David Prowse**, body, and **Sebastian Shaw**, human face), plus all manner of creepy-crawlie as ever haunted your worst nightmare. Such as Jabba the Hutt and all his little munchkin-like devilkings; his boar-faced guard corps; some kind of albino Elephant Man chief chamberlin, and one unmentionable monster, so terrible that even the frog-like Jabba keeps him under lock and key.

The adventure begins with all the heroic crew assembled back on the desert planet of Tatooine where it all began when Luke was a kid back in the original "Star Wars." When the second episode — "The Empire Strikes Back" — ended, Han Solo was in deep kimchi, frozen into some sort of wall ornament frieze by Jabba the Hutt in the bowels of his slimy, murky kingdom.

To say that they free Han with some degree of difficulty

like like saying Luke Skywalker is a little bit heroic, but eventually they get Han out of the carbonite deep freeze and are free to go on with their assault against the Empire.

To get to the station, they must first land on the Moon of Endor near the station where they have to disable a command post which controls the invisible space shield protecting the space home of the Emperor.

This gives Lucas and his merry band of special effects geniuses a chance to show their stuff — which they do to the extent of producing so many new gimcracks and thingamajigs to boggle the mind, already reeling with the sight of the freakish characters on both sides of spatial justice.

Fanatics of the "Star Wars" saga will follow all the foregoing perfectly, and it is my sad task to tell them that it looks as if this episode might sign the ol' "30" mark to the series. Lucas first revealed that his "Star Wars" series would encompass no less than 11 episodes, but I suppose he began

to wonder just how much money people can spend. For whatever reason, all the problems are resolved in "Return of the Jedi," all the questions answered, all the wrongs righted and all relationships spelled out.

For instance, did you ever wonder what Darth Vader really looked like under that Pontiac radiator grill he wears under that menacing ebon helmet? Did you ever wonder who Luke's father really might be? It's been pretty apparent that Han Solo is nuts about Princess Leia, but she always seemed to have eyes for Luke — and he her. Ever wonder how this pristine menage a trois would work itself out?

All these questions are answered in this final do. And in addition are introduced the cutest little warriors you ever in your life dreamed of. They are the Ewoks on the Moon of Endor, little teddy-bear like snugglies that had the Japanese in the audience I joined at a preview going "aaahhhhhh" and "aaawwwwwwww" in absolute surrender. Look forward to seeing the cuddly little Ewoks in your favorite toy store in time for Christmas exploitation.

Of course, everyone knows that "Return of the Jedi" has made more money quicker than any other motion picture ever committed to celluloid. And that's understandable. Lucas and Company have created a marvelous piece of work here, stunning to see and wondrous to contemplate. (CORK)



CHEWBACCA, PRINCESS LEIA, C3PO, LUKE, HAN

the weekender guide to

- BUNGEIZA.** To the left of the East exit of Ikebukuro Station. Tel. 971-3348.
文芸座
豊島区東池袋1丁目43の4
(池袋駅東口より左側)
- CINEMA 1.** 3rd floor New Tokyo Bldg., across from old Nichigeki Theater. Tel. 571-1946.
シネマ1
千代田区有楽町2の4
ニュー東京ビル3階
(旧日劇筋向い)
- CINEMA 2.** Basement of the New Tokyo Bldg., across from old Nichigeki Theater. Tel. 571-1947.
シネマ2
千代田区有楽町2丁目4
(旧日劇の前, ニュー東京ビルの地下)
- GINREI HALL.** To Kagurazaka from the West exit of Iidabashi Station. Behind diagonally fr. Kasakuza. Tel. 269-3852.
ギンレイホール
新宿区神楽坂2丁目19
(佳作座斜め裏)
- GINZA BUNKA 2.** Behind Wako Department Store at Ginza 4-chome. Tel. 561-0707.
銀座文化2
中央区銀座4丁目4-2
(和光裏)
- MITAKA OSCAR.** To the main street from the South exit of Mitaka station, same side of Fujl Bank. Tel. 0422-43-2877.
三鷹オスカー
三鷹市下連雀3丁目35-5
(南口駅前本通り富士銀行並び)
- HIBIYA EIGA.** Near San-shin and Hibiya Mitsui

- Bldgs., between the Imperial Hotel and Hibiya Park Bldg. Tel. 591-5353.
日比谷映画
千代田区有楽町1の14
(三信ビル, 三井ビル前)
- HIBIYA SCALAZA.** 4th floor of Takarazuka Theater, across from the Imperial Hotel. Tel. 591-5355.
日比谷スカラ座
千代田区有楽町1の12
(帝国ホテル筋向 宝塚劇場4階)
- IKEBUKURO GEKIJYO.** To the left of the East exit of Ikebukuro Station. Tel. 971-8361.
シネマ2
池袋劇場
豊島区池袋1丁目22の10
(池袋駅東口より左側)
- IKEBUKURO TOKYU.** From the East exit of Ikebukuro Station, next to Parco. Tel. 471-2727.
池袋東急
豊島区東池袋1丁目41-4
(東口パルコ先左側)
- KASAKUZA.** Opposite the West exit of Iidabashi Station. Tel. 269-1511.
佳作座
新宿区神楽坂1丁目12
(飯田橋西口前)
- KICHIJOJI SCALAZA.** 3rd floor of Cinema Bldg., the East Exit of Kichijoji Station. Tel. 0422-48-6521.
吉祥寺スカラ座
武蔵野市吉祥寺南2-3-16
(東口吉祥寺シネマビル3F)
- TACHIKAWA CENTRAL.** The North exit of Tachikawa Station, next to the Shochiku Theater on Takamatsu street. Tel. 0425-24-2798.

- 立川セントラル
立川市曙町2丁目8-4
(北口高松通り立川松竹隣り)
- KORAKUEN CINEMA.** Near Suidobashi Station in the Korakuen Bowling Center. Tel. 811-2111. (Mon. closed)
後楽園シネマ
文京区後楽1丁目3後楽園ボウリングセンター内(月, 休)
(水道橋駅前)
- MARUNOUCHI PICCADILLY.** Behind the former Asahi Shimbun Bldg. Tel. 201-2381/2.
丸の内ピカデリー
千代田区有楽町2の3
(旧朝日新聞ビル裏)
- MARUNOUCHI SHOCHIKU.** Behind former Asahi Shimbun Bldg., which is next to the old Nichigeki Theater. Tel. 201-3720.
丸の内松竹
千代田区有楽町2の3
(旧朝日新聞ビル裏)
- MARUNOUCHI TOEI PALACE.** Next to the Yomiuri Shimbun Bldg. Tel. 535-4740.
丸の内東映パレス
中央区銀座3の17の2
(読売新聞ビル横)
- GINZA ROXY** Basement, Shochiku Central. Tel. 541-2716.
銀座ロキシー
中央区築地5-13
(東銀座, 松竹会館内)
- KICHIJOJI CENTRAL.** 5th floor of Cinema Bldg., the East Exit of Kichijoji Station. Tel. 0422-48-6521.
吉祥寺セントラル
武蔵野市吉祥寺南2-3-16
(東口吉祥寺シネマビル5F)

- MEIGAZA MILANO.** In front of Koma Gekijo, near the East exit of Shinjuku Station. Tel. 200-0888.
名画座ミラノ
新宿区歌舞伎町29-2
(コマ劇場前)
- MIYUKIZA.** Across from the Imperial Hotel. Tel. 591-5357.
みゆき座
千代田区有楽町1の14
(帝国ホテル筋向い)
- NAKANO MUSASHINOKAN.** Near the North exit of Nakano Station. Tel. 389-3301.
中野武蔵野館
中野区中野5丁目60-11
(北口サンモール街200m)
- SHIBUYA PALACEZA** Next to Bldg. B of Seibu Dept. Store. Tel. 461-3534.
渋谷パレス座
渋谷区宇田川町20-9
(道玄坂新聞ビル隣)
- SHIBUYA BUNKA.** In the basement of the Shibuya Toho, which is on Dogenzaka, the uphill street going west from the front of Shibuya Station. Tel. 461-4902.
渋谷文化
渋谷区道玄坂2丁目7の17
(道玄坂渋谷東宝地階)
- SHIBUYA JOY CINEMA.** From the East exit of Shibuya Station, in front of Marui Dept. Store. Tel. 462-2589.

- 渋谷ジョイシネマ
渋谷区宇田川町20-15
(渋谷丸井前獅子林地下)
- SHIBUYA PANTHEON.** 1st floor of Tokyu Bunka Kaikan adjacent to Shibuya Station. Tel. 407-7219.
渋谷パンテオン
渋谷区渋谷2の21の12
(渋谷駅近 東急文化会館1階)
- SHIBUYA SCALAZA.** On Dogenzaka, the uphill street going west from the front of Shibuya Station. Tel. 461-1929.
渋谷スカラ座
渋谷区道玄坂2の6の17
(道玄坂並び)
- SHIBUYA TAKARAZUKA.** On Jingu-dori, across from the front of Shibuya Station. Tel. 461-8779.
渋谷宝塚
渋谷区宇田川町2
(渋谷駅前神宮通り)
- SHIBUYA TOKYU.** 5th floor of Tokyu Bunka Kaikan, adjacent to Shibuya Station. Tel. 407-7131.
渋谷東急
渋谷区渋谷2の21の12
(渋谷駅近 東急文化会館5階)
- SHINJUKU ACADEMY.** Across diagonally fr. Koma Gekijo, near the East exit of Shinjuku Station. Tel. 202-0142.

Tokyo Lions defeat Africa Club 3-2 in 'carnival' Weekender Cup contest

By Ernest N.D. Van

Dawdlers strolling around the NHK Hall amid roller-skaters, tennis players, and colorful *takenokozoku* (Japanese bamboo tribesmen) on Sunday, June 12, would have felt right at home at the Group A semi-final match of the fourth edition of the International Friendship Football League / Tokyo Weekender Spring Cup soccer tournament. The Tokyo Lions beat Africa Club 3-2.

Among a crowd of supporters, family members, friends and some representatives of the African diplomatic corps was a small universe of amateur soccer fans and players from the various countries of Africa, South and North America, Europe and Asia, and a majority of Japanese players of Tokyo Lions. This mosaic of people and flamboyant African players gave the image of a carnival in Rio. The game was exciting and dramatic, and its outcome was known only a few seconds before the final whistle by referee Kazuo Ikeda.

Tokyo Lions will compete in the final against the Group B winner of the single-elimination tournament which began with a field of six foreign teams and ten Japanese.

The winner of the Den Den Tokyo vs. Flor game (to be played on June 26) will oppose St. Mary's which qualified for the Group B semi-final following their well-deserved victory (5-2) over Sunday F.C. The Lions reached the semi-finals by eliminating Fujita Kogyo F.C. 6-2 and British Club 6-2.

Africa Club defeated Shonan F.C. (5-1) and Mickey Mouse F.C. (5-2).

Here are the details of the Tokyo Lions vs. Africa Club semi-final:

In the seventh minute, following keen attacks orches-



Douglas Boyle (left), Tokyo Lions' striker, receives the Top Scorer trophy for his 10-goal performance in the recent IFFL/The Japan Times Cup tournament. Presenting the award is IFFL General Secretary Ernest N.D. Van.

trated by A.C.'s captain Roger Hinkson, a lob executed by the African forward line caused an own-goal against the Lions when left back Eduardo Ferrada G. headed the ball in the Lions' goalmouth, past goalie Junichi Omata.

In the 14th minute a ricochet off the A.C. goalie went into the African net on a shot by Lions' midfield player Yoshiro Une. In the 34th minute, A.C.'s right fullback F. Bruno, with a move more like volleyball than football, caught the ball with both hands to draw a penalty kick against his own team. An accurate shot by Lions' game-maker Kenji Yamanaka into the left corner of the A.C. net raised tension among A.C.'s supporters.

A.C.'s midfielder player Jean-Marie Toumba (a former Lions' player) entered the game in the 35th minute following lengthy talks among five African coaches to decide the substitution. Conflicting instructions

given by an excessive number of decision-makers among the A.C.'s rank caused great confusion to the African players who saw their defense under siege by Lions' attacks led by Terumasa Hattori and Ignacio Debarros Barreto, the latter a promising player from Brazil.

The tying goal by A.C. striker Nestor Ngbanzi in the 71st minute took some pressure off A.C.'s defense, organized by Moses Kinalwa, also a former Lions' player.

In the 89th minute, a well-executed corner kick by Lions' Yamanaka and a fumble by A.C.'s goalie put the ball in front of Lions' Douglas Boyle (a young American player who won this year's IFFL/The Japan Times Cup Top Scorer prize) for a kick into the African net at close range, to seal the result.

For the Lions, this will be their second trip to the final. They were winners in the first Weekender Cup against Fuji-haru F.C. Spain Club won the second edition against Los Bufalos F.C., and Los Bufalos were last year's winners with St. Mary's as runners-up.

Individual players who would like more information about IFFL or join future games should call Ernest N.D. Van at 402-7638 or 404-6212.

NWA-Boeing deal for new planes

Northwest has reached agreement with the Boeing Company for purchase of three new full sized B747 aircraft: one 747-200 freighter and two 747-200B passenger aircraft. Northwest will take delivery of the freighter in September, 1983, and the passenger aircraft in April

and May 1984.

The new 747 aircraft will be equipped with advanced Pratt and Whitney extended-range, fuel-efficient engines.

With the three new aircraft, Northwest's 747 fleet will consist of 26 passenger 747s and six all-cargo 747s.

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JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY RADIO

Cathay Pacific Squash set June 24-27

The Cathay Pacific Airways Cup Japan Open Squash tournament will be held at the Do Sports Plaza, Harumi, near the Port of Tokyo from June 24 to 27.

Ten leading squash players in Southeast Asia, where the sport is enthusiastically played, have been invited by Cathay Pacific to compete. They are: Zainal Abidin, reigning Singapore and East Asia men's champion; Chia Chew Lan, runner-up in Singapore championship; Lim Seok Hui, reigning Singapore women's champion; K.K. Chan, Hong Kong men's champion; Teresa Brooke, Hong Kong women's champion; Vipong Taechapoonpol, Thailand men's champion; Robert Yam, Philippines men's champion, and Rose Tablante, Philippines women's champion.

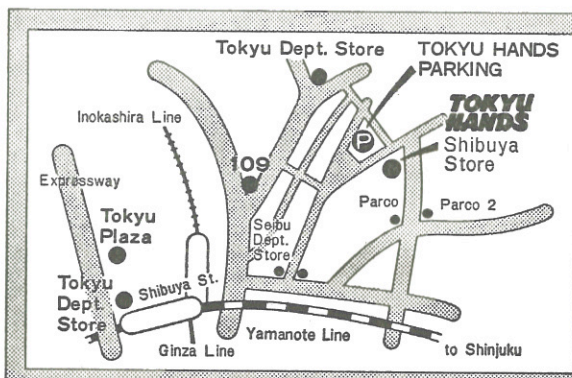
Abidin proved to be a thrilling finalist in last year's Cathay Cup when he lost to the top-seeded Ian Robinson, ranked fourth in England.

Cathay Pacific will be providing a special prize of a complimentary ticket to New Zealand for the leading Japanese male player in the competition. New Zealand is the host country for the World Championships in October and

is also a new destination for Cathay's latest B747 service.

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