

# Kiyoshi Likes Our Snow, Electricity

By CAROL KATZ  
Special Writer

Kiyoshi Phillip is one area resident who really enjoys the snow of Michigan winters. That's probably because, until now, he has never seen snow at all.

Kiyoshi, 19, comes from the tiny South Sea island of Pingelap, one of a string of Pacific islands known as Micronesia, south of Japan and north of Australia.

Transplanted from what has been termed a "tropical Eden," Kiyoshi, an exchange student now attending Churchill High School, has been living in Livonia since last summer and discovering a life-style as different from his own as another planet.

"I KNEW before I came here that the climate would be different. That is why I chose it over other places," says Kiyoshi who, because he is living in snowy Michigan, is now the envy of his island friends.

Enjoying winter and looking forward to his first ski trip in March, Kiyoshi admits to having been uncomfortable last summer.

Temperatures in balmy Micronesia range from 70 to 88 degrees; there is no extreme change of climate, nor is there need for heating systems or air conditioning.

Island life is simple and technologically primitive. Electricity is rarely used; television, washing machines and automobiles are virtually unused by most Micronesians.

NATURALLY, Kiyoshi finds himself fascinated by television. He enjoys all programs. Brushing his teeth with an electric toothbrush is another American treat, as well as the magic of push button appliances.

"Kiyoshi was absolutely amazed at our automatic garage doors," says Mrs. Charles Warner of 33801 Steep Hollow, with whose family Kiyoshi is staying.

Not all aspects of life in technological suburbia are appealing to him, however. Not used to being physically inactive, Kiyoshi admits to being bored by riding passively on long automobile trips.

Walking is the main form of Micronesian land transportation. Most islands are small enough to cover by foot in less than a half-hour.

RATHER THAN depending

on electronic forms of entertainment, islanders must provide their own.

A favorite evening recreation for Kiyoshi is catching flying fish with nets, a sport that can get exciting, especially when the fish fly against faces and bodies.

Music and dancing to tunes played on ukuleles, harmonicas and guitars provide more fun for a people whose easy going way of life rewards them with many hours of recreation.

Indeed, no Micronesian man is considered desirable by women unless he is adept at the arts of music and dance. Swimming and deep sea fishing are other year-round activities enjoyed by islanders, whose backyards are the deep waters of the Pacific Ocean.

LIFE AT bustling Churchill High School, with its thousands of students, is another overwhelming change for Kiyoshi.

His native high school is on the island of Pingelap, and it is here that he lives away from Pingelap during the school year with 400 other students, all of whom are responsible for the janitorial and custodial tasks as well as their studies.

Now a member of Churchill's wrestling team, Kiyoshi has enjoyed the sport with friends on his native beaches for years, although the rules of Micronesian and American wrestling are very different. Baseball, too, is played in Micronesia, but football is something new to Kiyoshi, who had his first fling on the gridiron since coming to Livonia.

WHAT COULD island life teach Americans? Kiyoshi and his American hostess, Ruth Warner, both agree that Americans could benefit from the same spirit of mutual helpfulness that enables Micronesians to join together to build each others' houses in a purely voluntary, spontaneous manner.

Micronesia could be enriched, too, by some of the American know-how that is so dazzling to Kiyoshi. He points to a need for better means of communication between the islands through such devices as the telephone and radio, thus adding a touch of American convenience to a part of the world that is legendary for its idyllic beauty and timeless pleasures.



KIYOSHI PHILLIP, who rarely sees anything electronic in Micronesia, enjoys watching television with Heather (left) and Mrs. Ruth Warner of his local host family. (Observer photo)

## Bill Would Aid Veterans

U.S. Rep. Marvin E. Esch (R-Ann Arbor) has introduced a bill to protect veterans from a reduction in their pensions as a result of increases in social security benefits.

Currently veterans must include social security benefits as part of their annual income in reports to the Veterans Administration. The small increases in social security benefits will push some veterans over the \$2,600 income limitation.

"This system is grossly unfair," Esch said. "The very least we can do for the men who fought for our nation is to assure that they are not cheated out of the social security increase that we have granted to every social security recipient."

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But new supplies from the Gulf Coast probably won't be available in Michigan for several years. Meanwhile, we must depend on additional gas from Michigan wells, and on supplementary gas from a new reforming plant being built near Marysville. Consumers Power is doing all it can to insure reliable service for its customers. But gas, like other forms of energy, is a valuable commodity. Use it wisely!

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