

WORTH \$100,000

Model from Japan on Tour with Rare Pearl Necklace

By FLORENCE SANTIS

We are so used to mixing Oriental and Western ideas in our fashions, it is hard to imagine how exciting this mixture still is in Eastern countries like Japan.

"Western dress was to us young people a badge of freedom," explained Japanese fashion model Kimiko-San while she was in New York.

"I think, now, we are becoming accustomed enough, however, that we also enjoy wearing kimono. After all, they are so beautiful, and Westerners themselves appreciate them so. Why should we Japanese girls reject them?"

Kimono has thus become a dress-up costume for fashion-conscious young Japanese girls like this tall, delicately beautiful fashion ambassador, who is now touring the United States for Imperial Pearl Syndicate.

Samurai Descendant

Her constant companion is a fabulous pearl necklace, worth \$100,000 and called "The Goddess of the Moon." It is the first necklace of pearls cultured in Burmese waters, and consists of 41 perfectly matched, round pearls in graduated sizes.

The lovely Japanese model's whole name is Kimiko Katayama, but she is usually called Kimiko-San, the "San" being a title of respect due her family rank. She comes from a wealthy Samurai family, descended from that warrior caste which has traditionally been Japan's most respected.

"It was not common for girls of my class to go outside their homes," she said in her soft voice. "Perhaps if my father had lived I couldn't have done it, but my mother's objections were easier to overcome. Oh yes, she still wears kimono always."

Kimiko's motive for becoming a model was quite simple—her height at 5' 10" in heels, she had always been called "Giantess" and made to feel absolutely abnormal. So she was, in a country where women seldom exceed 5' 2" in heels!

Hair Style Changeable

"When I found that I could be in demand just because of my height, you may imagine how I loved modeling and fashion. I admit I spend all my money on clothes."

Since ready-to-wear in Japan is cheaply made, Kimiko has a dressmaker, who is able to copy European and American designer fashions. Japanese girls know all the great names,

favor Dior as much as do Americans.

"American sportswear is much admired, and we import quite a lot, said Kimiko. "I wear slacks always at home. My hair? Oh yes, it is Japanese style today because I am wearing kimono, but I change it for Western clothes so I can wear a hat."

She was wearing a kimono of black and white silk, embroidered richly in gold. She showed me the complicated winding of the obi, the wide, stiff sash that encases the body like an exterior corset. Into its folds the Japanese woman tucks fan, handkerchief, money, using it as we do a handbag!

Fascinated by Pearls

Kimiko owns 60 kimonos. She is always succumbing to some new, gorgeous

brocade, and that means another kimono.

Besides modeling, she has appeared in Japanese movies and worked as a mannequin for specialty shops. There she learned more about pearls, which had fascinated her since childhood, when she had searched for fresh water pearls in lakes.

Now she is putting her knowledge of fashion and pearls to use in a six-month tour of this country with the fabulous necklace.

"I love meeting American women," she smiled. "I have realized that often in Japan we have been trying to imitate things not really American. I've learned so much already about good, simple American dressing, and your make-up. I would love to stay here for a longer time." (Fashion League Feature)



TOP JAPANESE model Kimiko-San, now on a tour of this country for Imperial Pearl Syndicate, wears one of her 60 kimonos to show fabulous \$100,000 cultured pearl necklace, "Goddess of the Moon."

Fashion League photo

Tuesday Luau on Agenda of Secretaries

Satellite Chapter of the National Secretaries Association will hold a luau Tuesday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. McMeen, 22712 McFarlane Drive, Woodland Hills.

Invitations have been extended to secretaries in the Valley who are not yet acquainted with NSA and who wish to have an opportunity to meet informally with members of the association.

The featured speaker for the evening will be Dr. Murray S. Stopol, who practices clinical psychology and marriage counseling in Encino. His topic will be titled "Knowing Yourself."



Picnic Meet Scheduled by Churchwomen

Mrs. Marlys Wittenhagen, president of the Christian Women's Fellowship of First Christian Church of Sun Valley, announces the second and concluding picnic meeting of the summer will be held Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at Sun Valley Park.

There will be a potluck supper and each person attending will bring table service as well as food.

There will be a program and study will be led by Eunice Jarvis and the worship will be brought by Elma Benning.

Lydia group is in charge.

Plans are under way for the annual kick-off dinner in September. The event will mark the opening of the year's work program. The program will be furnished by the Sunland-Tujunga Funsters, a group of senior citizens of S-T Golden Age club.

