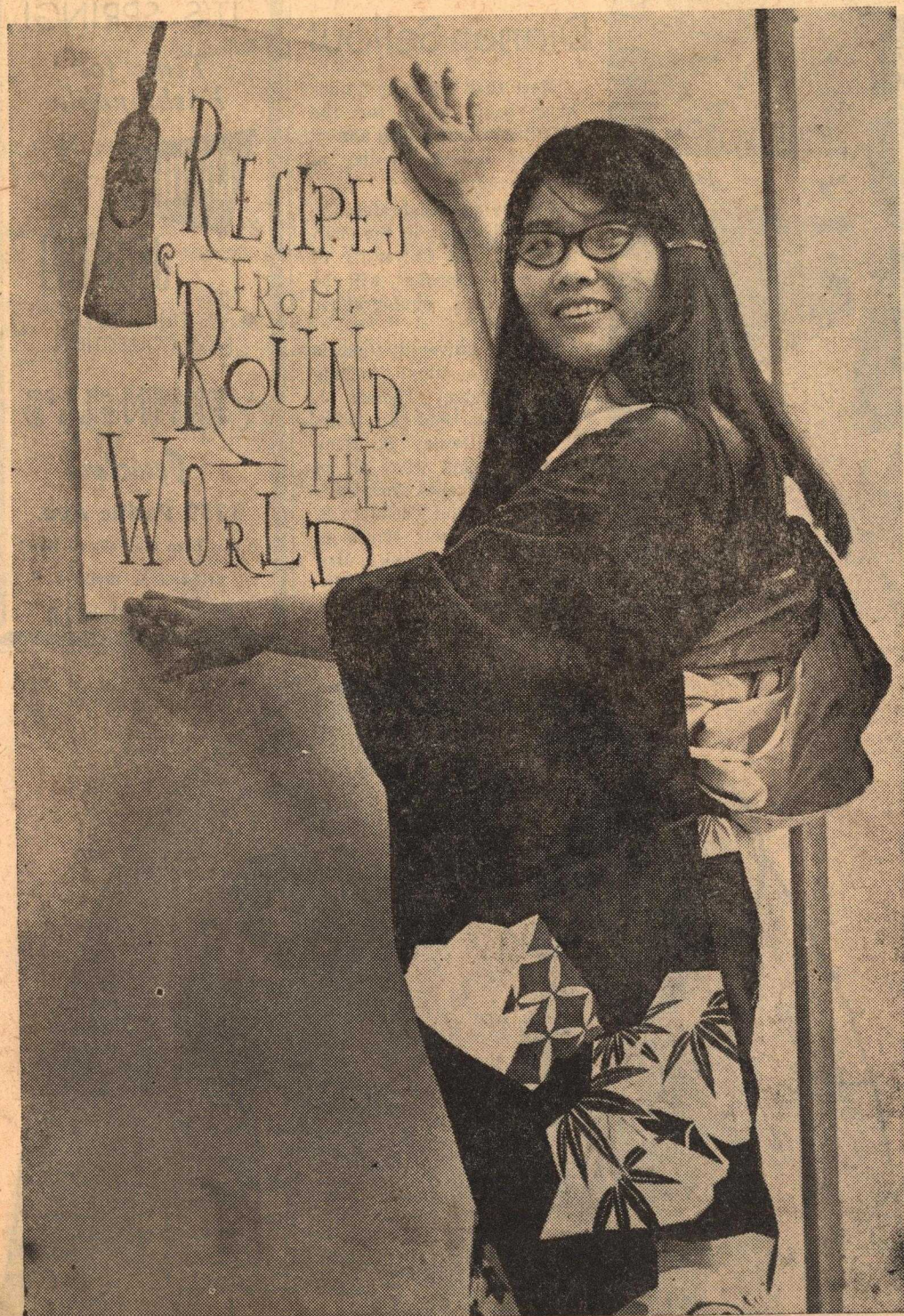


# American Field Service

By Margaret Koch  
Sentinel Staff Writer



FOREIGN FOODS will be served — also compiled into books of recipes to be sold. Naomi Takemoto, in charge of both foods and recipes, also serves as president of Soquel high AFS chapter.

The year was 1918 . . .  
The screaming nightmare of shrapnel had stopped; the deathly chatter of machine guns has halted. Big Bertha's boom, followed by the explosion of her giant shells, was stilled.

The devastated land was strangely silent. In France, a couple of ambulance drivers—thoughtful men—were talking. They talked of their families, their narrow escapes in the front lines, the state of the world.

And their conversation was the start of the American Field Service as we know it today—a friendly exchange of students between nations of the world.

The ambulance drivers were A. P. Andrews of Massachusetts and Stephen Galatti of New Jersey, both of whom served during World War I with the volunteer American Field Service ambulance corps. That's what the AFS was—at first. Nearly 2500 unpaid men drove 1220 donated ambulances to and from the front lines.

When World War I ended, the two men were concerned with the danger of another such holocaust bursting forth in the world. They felt that better international relations might be fostered through the exchange of students, and they organized AFS fellowships for French universities. Over a period of 23 years, 168 American and French scholars were given grants for graduate study.

Andrew died in 1935 and Galatti took over as AFS director-general. In 1939 the organization was reactivated as a volunteer ambulance corps for World War II. The AFS served first in France, then on fronts in Africa, the Middle East, Europe, India and Burma.

Once again battlefields were silent; peace treaties were made. Then in 1955, Galatti and interested school principals who had worked as AFS drivers made plans to extend the AFS scholarship program to include high school juniors and seniors.

The program thrived. And foreign students, returning to their homelands, instituted the Americans Abroad program whereby American youth could visit their countries. Adele Hansen was the first student from Santa Cruz to go.

Summer and half-year programs also were started. And since 1947 more than 30,000 students from the United States and 65 foreign countries have taken part in some phase of the AFS program which is a private, unaffiliated organization.

Today the AFS brings students from more than 50 foreign countries to live in American homes and study in American schools for a year.

During the summer, American students from nearly every state spend six weeks living with families abroad.

Among the 107 U. S. students sent to southern hemisphere countries this year were 20 Californians. They include Robin Simpson of Soquel high school, now in Africa, and Charles Kent of Watsonville, in Brazil.



TAHITIAN DANCER is really Lei Frieland, who will perform at the American Field Service benefit at Soquel high April 25. Furnishing the piano accompaniment is Roberto "Ro" Pasqualin of Brazil. Both students attend Soquel high.

Soquel high school chapters are joining April 25 to present a much-needed fund-raising event at Soquel high "International Potpourri" will feature entertainment by local students plus a movie entitled "The AFS Story" with Robert Montgomery. Foreign exhibits and a fashion show will be staged by Home Economics departments of both schools. International dinners will be served and the recipes may be bought in book form. Doors open at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$1.50 for adults and 75 cents for children under 12. The public is invited. Mrs. J. E. Hopkins is general chairman. Dr. Bryon Adams is the local AFS president.

raised to send another student or two from this area this year.

Living in local homes this year are Anne Van Melckebeke of Belgium and Roberto "Ro" Pasqualin of Brazil. And so the program plants the seeds of friendship and understanding as outlined in the AFS motto: "Walk together, talk together, all ye people of the earth; then, and only then, shall there be peace."

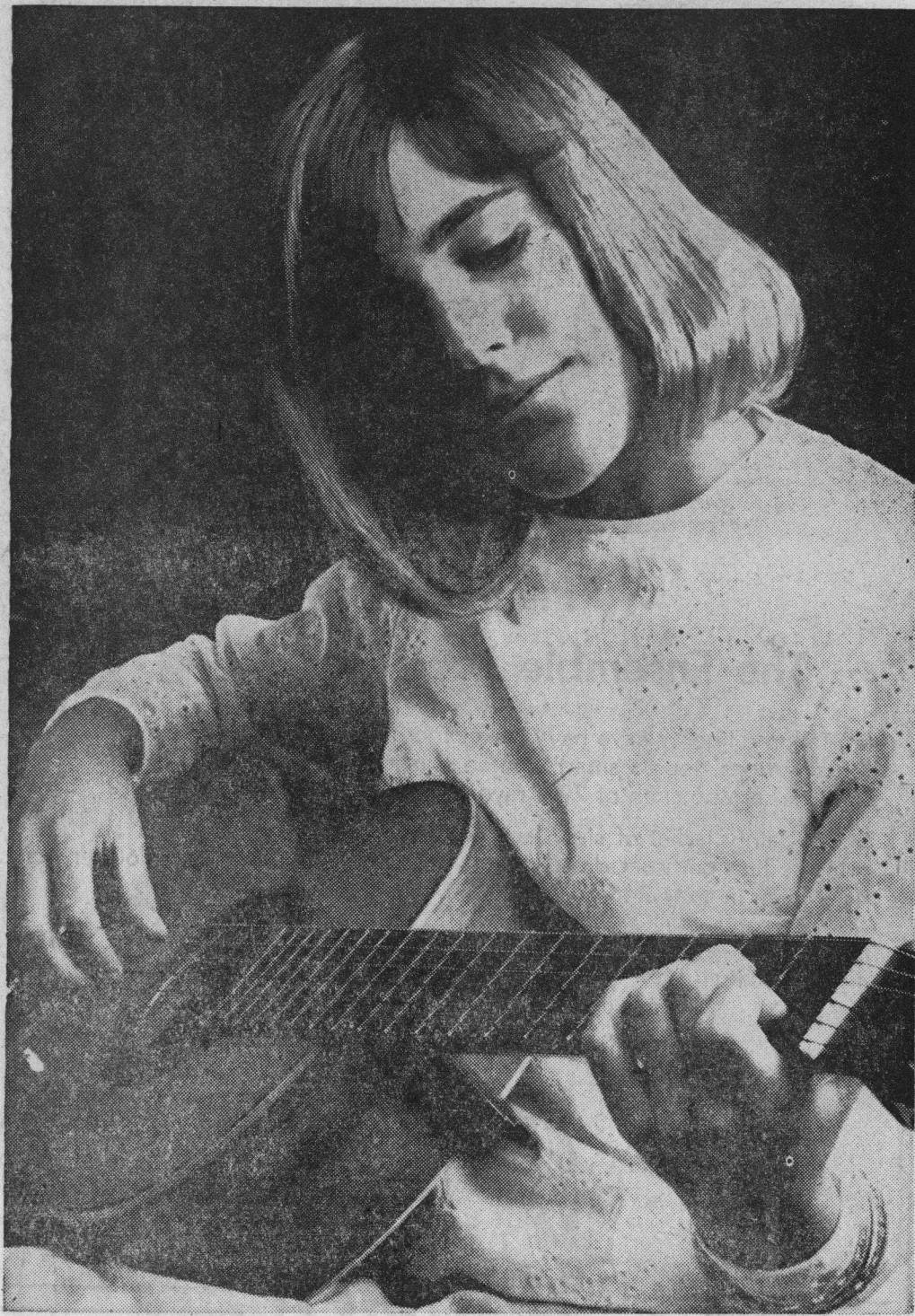
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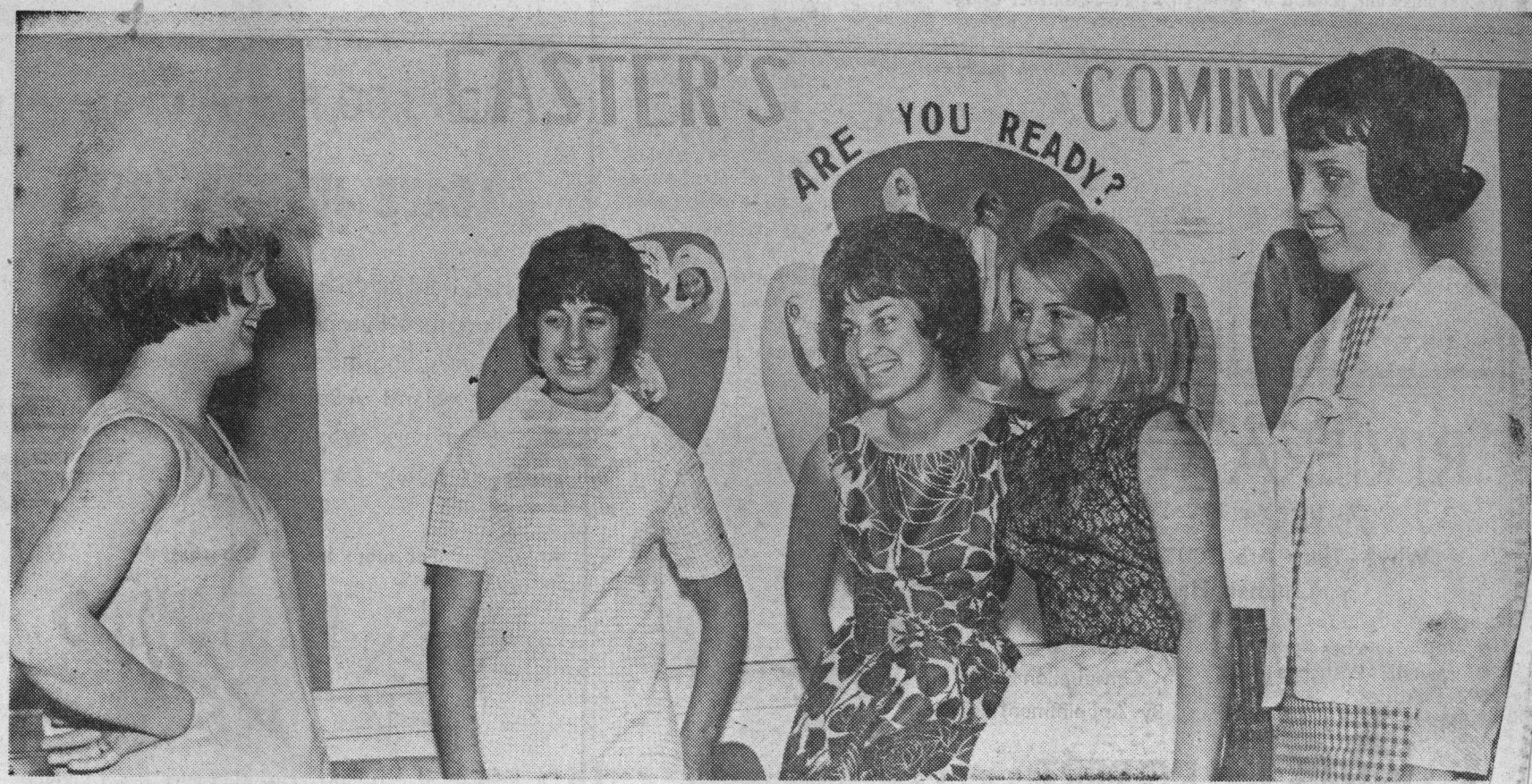


RABBITS OUT OF HATS . . . are easy for these AFS magicians. They just wish it were that easy to raise funds needed to further student exchange work of the private, unaffiliated organization. Practicing here are Gerald Allen, Soquel high teacher, and student Kenneth Mallett.

Photos by  
Pete Amos



FOLK SONGS . . . ballads, will be provided by Jennifer Lezin of Santa Cruz high as part of the musical entertainment at the AFS "International Potpourri."



FASHIONS FOR ANY HOUR will be shown at the AFS benefit by girls from Santa Cruz and Soquel high schools. Making plans for it are (from left) Pat Haynes of Santa Cruz high, Colleen Wilson of So-

quel high. Michele Krepela and Carol Twist, both of Santa Cruz, Jacque Plunkett of Soquel. Fashions will range from bathing to long formal gowns.