

CROWN PRINCE AND COMMONER THRILL JAPAN!

Japan celebrates - its happiest celebration in years. The reason for the gaiety and the Japanese lanterns is that the Emperor-to-be has chosen his betrothed. But Crown Prince Akihito broke with the tradition of two thousand six hundred years by selecting a commoner as the future empress. Like the prince, his fiance is a sports enthusiast - in fact, they met on a tennis court.

Here they are seen together at one of their relatively rare meetings. The prince is said to have fallen in love at first sight and courted mostly by telephone. Lovely Michiko Shoda - daughter of a Tokyo industrialist - said "yes" because "his sincerity won me over". Her trip to the palace draws more teenagers than rock'n'roll.

Like the prince, Michiko is 24 years old. The head of Sacred Heart University, where she studied, describes her as queenly in every sense of the word. She majored in English literature, finished first in her class and speaks English nearly as fluently as her native tongue.

In Japan the old order yields to a still older institution - love.

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Page 2

LOVE WINS ON THIS TENNIS COURT!

A sentimental journey for the sweethearts of Japan - Crown Prince Akihito and Michiko Shoda. They met on a tennis court last year and now get a cake to celebrate the imperial engagement. When they met they were on opposite sides of the net, but now - symbolizing their new status - they play as partners. So, no matter what the score, it's sure to be a love game.

Now Michiko serving.

Lovers of the game of tennis - winners of the game of love!