

THE FLAPPER

Not For Old Fogies
JUNE, 1922
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FLAPPERS FLAPPED IN GRANDMOTHER'S TIME.

By Marie June LaVerne.

Flapping flappers are not a new species on this dear Old World of ours as many kind themselves into believing after perusing the current news of the day in which the flapper commands spotlight attention. Just like the fads of wearing knickers, crocheted sweaters, leg garter clocks, or going stockingless are simply a reincarnation of ancient customs, so also is the case of the flapper.

Ever since Eve was vamped by the snake in the garden and the apple tossed by Adam flopped into her hands, flappers have continued to flap throughout the ages.

Cleopatra, with her gorgeous assortment of perfumes, wild animal pets and poisons, is perhaps the stellar flapper in History. Madam Du Barry, however, played a notable flapper role during the Middle Ages. During the present flapper craze, there is a great deal said and written, but no real stellar luminary crops out. If Theda Bara was still taking parts similar to the one which made her famous, "A Fool There Was", she might be credited with the tissue-lined, crepe paper bathtub.

A study of literature of grandmother's time, however, reveals cases similar to those which are occupying the attention of the public now. There are many lines written about short skirts of Grandma's day. In Vinland, Kans., a town of 400 inhabitants, this subject is being bitterly attacked because Alice Hansen and Maude Buchanan, 16-year-old flappers, and daughters of farmers, are wearing skirts shorter than those which are in vogue among the high school pupils. They put their thumbs down on the proposition that the skirts must not come less than three inches below the knees. Judge Hugh Means of the Douglas county district court, issued a temporary restraining order against the board and it is now up the highbrows of the supreme court of Kansas to decide the case and bring in a satisfactory verdict.

A supporter of the flapper is Edwin C. Broome, superintendent of the Philadelphia public schools, who champions teachers bobbing their hair. He says that it is up to the School ma'am just as long as she doesn't lower her personal standards. Grandma isn't a bit shocked because there are so many followers of Irene Castle because she remembers that there were a number of girls when she was young who bobbed their hair. Of course, she says, it was not as popular and "didn't take", but the fact remains that they had it cut short and that is enough.

Then there is the notorious "lipstick" case of Knobel, where Miss Pearl Pugsley, 18 years old, won a writ of mandamus setting aside the rules of the school board who forbid the use of cosmetics, wearing low and peek-a-boo waists and short skirts. The use of beautifying cosmetics has been in vogue since Cleopatra vamped the Roman emperor. In Grandma's day it was popular but the powder, lipsticks and eyebrow pencils were of inferior grades and often did more harm than good. Scientists have taken all of the harm out of these things now and it is as natural to see powder, rouge and eyebrow pencil marks on girls as it is to see roses in florists shops on Christmas.

The crisis has been reached and the denouncement is breaking up. All this criticism of flappers is bunk and should be treated lightly.

She—"Short skirts make the boys fall more quickly I hear."

He—"Oh! nonsense! It's nothing but calf love."