

News From Home

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Even a good war can't completely quell the lighter side of life



In a Los Angeles courtroom, Errol Flynn discusses some of the finer points of statutory rape. Behind him, in suspenders, is Peggy Satterlee, one of two girls who say Flynn done them wrong.

Errol Flynn, on trial under California statute of "Statutory Rape" which defines the charge as "having carnal knowledge of any woman under 18 with or without her consent, attracted hundreds of women to the Hollywood court trying him. Some of the women grabbed the actor's hands and kissed them. The court heard Betty Hansen, 17, tell of intimacy with the swashbuckling hero of the flicker at a party. But the admiring women attending court sessions didn't seem impressed. Instead, it appeared they were mostly cheering for Flynn.

As the court awaited testimony of the second accuser, 16-year-old Peggy Satterlee, the prosecution surprised everybody by producing affidavits accusing two of the nine women jurors as prejudiced, one for Flynn, the other against him.

Frances Farmer, in another court, was removed to a psychopathic ward after her father demanded a sanity test for her. She was arrested in a swank Hollywood hotel by a detective, whom she eluded by dashing into the bathroom, from which she emerged in the nude. Booked at the police station, she defiantly listed her profession as "world's oldest."