

Tough English Youths Reverting to Clothes, Coiffure of 50 Years Ago

By DONALD MCNICOLL

LONDON (AP)—Just before he sailed for Japan last year, Alan Marsh, teenage London seaman, saw something in a London tailor's shop window that changed his whole outlook on life.

It was an Edwardian suit, complete with velvet-collared jacket and calf-clinging drainpipe pants—the kind London dandies wore 50 years ago in the reign of King Edward VII.

Marsh had to make a trip to Japan and back as a seaman before he could raise the \$84 in American money it cost him to buy the costume and become a "Teddy Boy."

Thousands of young Britons like Marsh from 15 to the early 30's are buying such suits these days in the fantastic craze that's sweep-

ing England. They've made a new look from the "old look" of Edward's time.

Some claim it's the uniform of juvenile delinquency and call the Teddy Boy "crowds" mere hotbeds of violence and crime. Others disagree.

When Marsh bought his Teddy Boy suit he also bought advertisement-white shirts and a narrow, "Slim Jim" tie.

"All you need now is a D. A.," the tailor told him.

D. A. is Edwardian slang for a haircut with upswept sidecurls, a pompadour top and a close resemblance to the back of the rear end of a duck. The haircut costs some Teddy Boys six dollars for really fancy D. A.'s that rival the coiffures of their girl friends.

to buy our own clothing. We don't need to steal.

"What's the use of learning to dance properly when the dance halls are so crowded there's no room to do anything else but creep around?"

"Our slang isn't worse than other slang and we think a lot of it is elegant."

As for traveling in gangs, Edwardians say this is nothing new. "It's just that we're more noticeable now we are in the latest fashion."

Many police officers and social workers side with the Teddy Boys. They insist that, by and large, they are decent-living youngsters, perhaps a bit too much addicted to jazz and girls, but no worse than others of their age.

Public concern over the Edwardians was first aroused after a gang fight at Clapham Common, a London park where they parade every evening with their girl friends. The fight ended in a fatal stabbing.

The Edwardian style was resurrected four years ago by London's leading tailors in Savile Row. It caught on to some extent among the wealthy, but they abandoned the fad when they found it taken over and adapted by youngsters in meanest London's slums and elsewhere on the wrong side of the tracks.

The Teddy Boys' girls often earn more frowns than the boys.

Some of the girls go in for nothing more fancy than a high-collared blouse clasped at the throat by an old-style cameo brooch. Others, however, favor distinctive tweed box coats with below-the-waist belts and big upturned cuffs, sometimes trimmed with velvet.

Plain or fancy, even the Teddy Boys' best friends say the girls cause more than half the trouble.

Miss Daphne Charity, social worker in the tough Vauxhall area of London, says bluntly: "The girls often make conflicting dates with boys in rival gangs—then egg on the gangs to fight it out."

In the dance halls of Britain's big cities, the Edwardians tend to group together, even though they may belong to rival "crowds."

Eric D. Morley, director of the Mecca chain of ballrooms, welcomes Edwardians.

"Nice People"

"They are extremely nice people despite reports to the contrary," he says.

Any resemblance between dancing and what most Teddy Boys do on the floor is limited to these two points: (1) They face their girls, (2) they move their feet.

Instead of orthodox dance steps, the Teddy Boys do "the creep." This consists of clutching the girl, who sometimes holds on to the boy with hands clasped around his neck, and shuffling flat-footed around the hall.

Despite whispers to the contrary, there is no evidence that Edwardians indulge in drugs to any greater extent than the rest of their generation.

Speak to the Teddy Boy and you often find he is well-mannered and courteous, willing to explain his point of view, but quick to take offense at what he regards as unjust criticism.

Now, like a political party, there are signs the Edwardians have a left, a center and a right wing.

The leftists are going in for extreme exaggerations of the Edwardian style, notably with knee-length jackets and gaudy vests.

The main body of centrists are resisting any degeneration of the traditional style.

And a handful of rightists are venturing tentatively back to great-grandfather's day for an adaptation of the Victorian style.

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Can't Afford Upkeep

Critics say Teddy Boys must be tempted to steal in order to keep themselves in this sort of finery which they can't really afford. They also recall pitched battles in which Teddy Boys have wielded knives, razors and lead blackjacks.

The boys themselves indignantly deny such tactics. As young Marsh says, speaking in the strange language that has evolved with the strange costumes:

"It's no giggle getting your rig ruffed by some geezer in a bundle." (Meaning there's nothing funny about getting a costly Edwardian costume, damaged in a fight.)

He added, "I fight if I have to, but my fists are good enough for me. Anyway, I don't go looking for trouble."

Not Mentally Defective

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Looks Distinctive

Why did the style appeal to so many young slum dwellers? One psychiatrist gives this opinion:

"Without some distinguishing feature, the average youth in a slum feels himself completely lost in the mass of people around him. But in an Edwardian suit he knows he looks distinctive and that people will look at him instead of ignoring him as they would if he went about normally dressed."

Irwin Estate Tops Million

PORTLAND (AP)—The estate of Charles E. Irwin, who died May 20, was valued at more than one million dollars in an inventory and appraisal filed in probate court here Friday.

Irwin was founder of Wentworth & Irwin, Inc., an automobile sales agency.

Boy Vandals Raise Havoc

SAN DIEGO, Calif. (UP)—A pair of young vandals on a five hour "crime spree" Friday drove a two-ton truck from a contractor's yard through a fence and rammed a new car, stole some inner tubes from a garage, took a first aid kit from a car, slashed inner tubes with a hatchet in a second garage and took a jackknife from a gas station attendant.

The culprits were two boys, aged 4 and 6.

Driving Prowess Undetermined

CHICAGO (UP)—The National Safety Council says no one can really tell who's the better driver, man or woman.

The Council said that 10 times as many men as women drivers were involved in fatal accidents, but more than twice as many men were driving. They also said the men drive farther per driver and under more adverse conditions.

Air Defense Division Due

HAMILTON AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (UP)—A new air defense division charged with protection of eastern Washington, eastern Oregon and Idaho will be established at Geiger Field, Spokane, Wash., in October, it was announced Saturday.

Maj. Gen. Walter E. Todd, commander of Western Air Defense Force, said the new 9th Air Division would be commanded by Col. Harrison R. Thyng, World War II and Korea ace.

The 9th Division at first will consist of fighter-interceptor squadrons and aircraft control and warning (radar) squadrons presently operating in the region.

The 25th Air Division is now charged with air defense of the entire Pacific Northwest and with activation of the 9th, the 25th will be responsible only for Washington and Oregon west of the Cascade divide.

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Heat Forecast For Midwest

WASHINGTON (UP)—The Weather Bureau predicts "especially" high temperatures for the central portion of the country during the next 30 days.

Friday's forecast below normal temperatures for the north-eastern states and Great Lakes area but said the rest of the country is in for warmer than usual weather.

The bureau also predicted above normal rainfall over the Great Basin the Southeast and Great Lakes. Below normal rainfall is expected from the Great Plains eastward to the Middle Atlantic States with average rains in the rest of the country.

BPR Requests Grading Bids

PORTLAND (AP)—The Bureau of Public Roads Friday asked for bids for grading 6.6 miles of the Belknap Springs Highway, in Lane and Linn counties.

The road starts from a connection with the McKenzie Highway near Belknap Springs, about 60 miles east of Eugene. Work will extend northeast from the connection. Present need of the road is for timber harvest.

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