

Black Stocking Critics Seeing Red Over Issue

LONDON (UPI)—Do those thick black stockings so fashionable in the United States and Britain have "socks appeal?"

No, rages most of London, appalled that the tweedy lassies of Merrie Old England look like French Apache dancers.

But women from ship girls to such film queens as Kay Kendall are pulling on the long, black wool stockings like ones Paris collar dancers and Great-Grandma used to wear.

The stockings are reported to have started in both Rome and the left bank of Paris. Last year, the Greenwich Village set in New York took up the craze. This season, the fashion was stolen from the artsy-craftsy set by London's females who don't want to brave the winter in the usual few threads of sheer nylon.

"I feel delicious in thick black stockings," said Miss Kendall.

"They make you feel so young," Rex Harrison, her husband, adores them. And they're so warm!"

Girls who cover their underpinnings in bright red, blue or green stockings are "delightful and uninhibited," said designer-photographer Cecil Beaton, who did sets and costumes for "My Fair Lady." "Colored stockings are so much gayer than pale, laddered (full of runs) nylons," he added.

But other Londoners are aghast. The quiet, correct London Times took time out from world affairs to editorialize that the new leg makes a girl look like "a cheerleader in the peasants' revolt or a water-logged syngnet who never made 'Swan Lake'."

While I realize that under every innocent English schoolgirl there lurks an Apache dancer in form-fitting black stockings and high heels, I am constantly surprised to see them walking down the street inside out," the paper commented.

BBC television commentator Gilbert Harding called the fad "vulgar, comic and rather hideous."

The tabloid Sunday Pictorial cried that black stockings "distort" the lovely line between ankle and knee, and thicken the ankles. If it is warmth the girls are after, that is all they get. They are kidding themselves when they talk about (the stockings) being attractive and smart, the paper continued.

Dress designer Victor Stiebel said the fad "won't last any time at all."

But across the channel comes news of a successor: Scotch plaid stockings, already popular in Paris stores.

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SINCE HAWAII has just become state number 50 and this is conservation week, perhaps a brief recognition of the conservation program there is in order. Shown above are directors and associates of Mauna Kea Soil Conservation District assembled at their regular monthly meeting. From left to right around the table they are: John Peacock, manager, Puu Oo Ranch; Arata Kansako, cane planter; Sam Lujan, cane planter and rancher; Minoru Matsuura, county agent; Robert Ota, county agent; Albert Ozaki, engineer with Hawaiian Homes Commission; H. Cedric Weight, assistant manager Hamakua Mill Company; Tom Kawano, vegetable farmer; Roger T. Williams, manager Kukaiau Ranch; H. M. Richards Jr., manager Kohala Ranch; Clarence L. Lyman, county agent; Gene Cox, Soil Conservationist assigned to the district and H. F. Stender, technician for C. Brewer and Company, chairman Richard Penhallow of Parker Ranch was not present when the picture was taken. Mauna Kea is the largest Soil Conservation District in the islands. It covers about a million acres in the northern half of the island of Hawaii and includes 10 sugar cane plantations, four very large ranches, about 150 smaller stock ranches, many independent cane growers and about 75 vegetable farms. The picture was taken by Warren Ikeda of the Soil Conservation Service on January 11, 1957, in the meeting room of the public library building in Honokaa.



THESE CALVES are pictured on the feed lot of Harry and Ira Orem near Hatfield. The Orem's are using a system of feeding cattle on alfalfa sod prior to potatoes.

— Photo by Jendrzewski



SPRAYING BY AIR to kill back sagebrush and rabbit brush is an ever increasing industry. Here pilot Jack Mulkey is shown making a pass over the Campbell Ranch near Bly. This photo was taken by County Agent J. D. Vertrees on May 23 last year.