

Flapper Era

By: Samantha

A whole new idea of style !



Flapper



- ▶ A flapper was a whole new idea that emerged for women in the 1920s. A flapper was an emancipated young woman who supported the new fashion styles of that time.
- ▶ Close fitting felt hats, bright waistless dresses an inch above the knees, skin toned silk stockings, sleek pumps, and strings of beads replaced the dark and prim ankle-length dresses. Whale bone corsets and petticoats of victorian days were going out of style.
- ▶ Young women would cut their hair into a boyish haircut, then dye it jet black. Many young women started to become more assertive, they wanted so badly to become equals to men. Some women even began smoking, drinking in public, and talking openly about sex. These actions would have ruined their status as a whole years before all this.
- ▶ Women danced the Fox Trot, Camel Walk, Tango, Charleston and Shimmy, even their attitudes towards marriage started to change. Many middle class men and women saw marriage as a more equal partnership, but both still agreed that housework and tending to the children would remain a woman's job.

Dance Fads



Charleston



Dance Marathon



1920s women



1920s men

- ▶ The Charleston was the dance of the 1920s. This dance was energetic, and it involved wild flailing movements of the arms and legs. It demanded an appropriate costume for the woman dancer: a short, straight dress without a waistline.
- ▶ Another big dance at that time was the Dance Marathon. This was a dance contest where couples would dance continuously for days, taking a fifteen minute break every hour, each taking turns holding up the other while he or she slept. Dancers would often drop due to exhaustion because of this.
- ▶ Gentleman's fashion: Gentlemen also enjoyed some outrageous fashion of their time. At one point the latest fashion in trousers, sometimes called oxford bags were very wide-legged, straight-leg pants. Also patent leather hair was extremely popular for men. It was either parted to the side or middle and slicked down close to the head.
- ▶ Women's fashion: Short bob cut hair styles, dresses were short and straight with no waistline. Many women were going for a liberated change of fashion, they wanted short skirts and hair, as well as the freedom to be able to smoke and drink in public.

Charleston & Jitterbug Dances

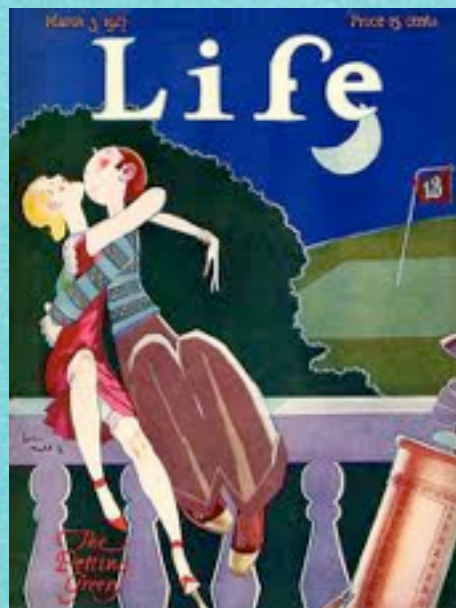
- ▶ The Charleston dance became popular after appearing along with the song “The Charleston” by James P. Johnson in the Broadway musical “Runnin’ wild” in 1923. The dance has been traced back to blacks who lived on an island off the coast of Charleston, South Carolina. That’s why the dance is called the Charleston. The Charleston dance has been performed in black communities since 1903, but was not internationally popular until the musical debuted in 1923. The music that is danced to for the Charleston is called ragtime jazz. The dance involves swaying arms and movement of the feet. To begin the dance one must move the right foot back one step, then kicks backward with the left foot, while the right arm moves forward, then both feet and arms are replaced to the start position and the right foot kicks forward while the left arm moves backward. This pattern of dance steps is done with a hop in between steps. The Charleston dance became extremely popular in the 1920s, especially with Flappers. The dance could be done by one single person, with a partner or in a large group.
- ▶ The Jitterbug dance is a ballroom dance. It became popular in the 1930s and 1940s. This dance originated in the United States and spread around internationally by U.S. armed forces during WWII. Its original exciting acrobatic swings and lifts were modified for more calm and relaxing ballroom dances. Couples did versions while holding one or both hands. Step patterns varied largely and included such dances as the Lindy Hop, (named after Charles Lindbergh’s transatlantic flight.) Dancers normally did two slow “dig” steps (ball of the foot then the heel) and two “quicksteps” (one foot back one in place.) The jive where dancers would take a step to each side and then did two “shuffles” (side step, almost close other foot, side step.) Jitterbug music also called jive or jump is in 4/4 time with a syncopated rhythm.

Slang

- ▶ The 1920's was the first decade to bring out youth culture compared to the other generations, and the flapper had a huge influence on main stream America. Many new words and phrases were created by the many liberated women, and some are still used today.
- ▶ Attaboy/girl: well done !
- ▶ Balled up: confused/messed up.
- ▶ Beat it: scam or get lost !
- ▶ Bimbo: tough guy.
- ▶ Cash: a kiss.



John Held



- ▶ John Held was a U.S. illustrator. He was one of the most famous magazine illustrators of the 1920s. His cheerful art defined the flapper era so well that many people are familiar with it today. John Held Jr. always claimed his art came from his father and sculptor Mahonri M. Young, a grandson of Brigham Young.



Margret Sanger

Margret's occupation was a nurse, and birth control advocate. She is known for advocating birth control and women's health. She became aware of the effects of unplanned and unwelcome pregnancies. Her mother's health suffered due to giving birth to eleven children. She soon believed in the importance to woman's health and lives by making birth control available. Margret took credit for the invention of the term. In 1912 she gave up her nursing work to dedicate herself in the distribution of birth control information, but then the Comstock Act of 1873 forbade the distribution of birth control information. She wrote articles on health for the socialist party paper.



The End !

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