

## Flappers Women of the 1920s

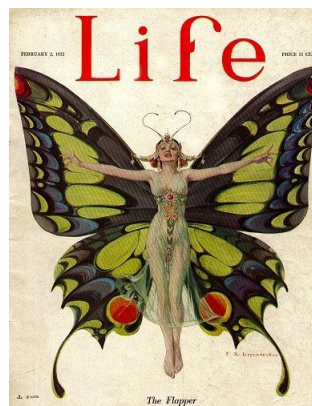
“The ‘20s were an exciting—and perhaps a frightening—time to be young. It was an era of the First Youth Rebellion. Once boys had tried to be perfect models of gallantry, industry and idealism; girls had aspired to seem modest and maidenly. Now all that had changed. ‘The uncertainties of 1919 were over,’ F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote. ‘America was going on the greatest, gaudiest spree in history.’

The new questioning of their elders’ authority, combined with the relative affluence of the decade, spawned a breed of youngsters who claimed to be hardboiled, heavy-drinking and daring—and sometimes were. The girls in particular seemed to have changed. Skirts were shorter than ever before. Cloche hats, silk stockings, fake jewelry, bobbed hair replaced the osprey plumes, hobble skirts and flowing tresses of yesteryear. The advent of Prohibition made secret drinking an appealing game; women took up smoking; sales of cigarettes doubled during the decade.

Morals were undergoing a revolution. More and more college-age boys owned automobiles—and were parking them on dark roads to ‘neck’ with their dates...Inevitably, the daring clothes, the scandalous dances and sensual jazz, the late-night parties and cynical opinions of the young drew the wrath of many members of the older generation. ‘The situation,’ declared a Southern Baptist publication, ‘causes grave concern on the part of all who have the ideals at heart of purity and home life and the stability of our American civilization.’

But America’s young people didn’t care. They went right on in their heedless, happy way, adopting outrageous fashions and singing, ‘In the mean time, in between time, ain’t we got fun?’”

*-Our American Century: The Jazz Age: The 20s*



The Roaring Twenties: Station Five



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