

Article in the New York Times

British Court Finds Wearer of Topless Guilty and Upstaged

LONDON, Aug. 21—The first topless dress prosecution in Britain was completed today amid roars of laughter in a Bow Street court.

Mrs. Diana Gorton, a 30-yearold housewife who posed for photographers in a black topless dress on Westminster Bridge, was found guilty of indecency. But she was given a conditional release.

The star of the court performance was not the defendant, however, but Leonard Winter, an elderly street photographer who objected to the intrusion of his territory.

There was laughter as Mr. Winter began to describe the day “a woman who appeared to have no top to her dress” posed on his “pitch” near a bridge statue.

He said he went up to the woman in the topless and said, “You ought to be pinched.”

“You mean arrested?” the prosecuting attorney asked. “Yes,” Mr. Winter replied.

“What did you feel about all this?” Mr. Winter was asked.

“It was annoying people,” he replied. “I was standing there to get my living and people were complaining about the obstruction.”

When the laughter subsided, Mr. Winter was asked whether he had seen anything like this before, “I have a wife,” he said.

“That is at home,” the prosecutor said, “but this was Westminster Bridge on a Friday afternoon. Did it have any effect on you personally?”

“No,” replied Mr. Winter, “I am 70 years of age.”

Then Mrs. Gorton, modestly attired in sweater and skirt, cross - examined the street photographer. "Were you personally annoyed?" she asked.

"Yes," Mr. Winter replied amid a roar of laughter. "Why should you come on my pitch?"

I am licensed there."