

Court Rules 'Flame' Too Torrid

Betty Flame, 31-year-old dancer, whose torrid performance made a police raiding party uncomfortable, failed to convince court officials yesterday that her act at a local night club was not immoral.

Miss Flame donned horn-rimmed glasses, wagged her blond tresses and demurely testified that police in approximately 30 states and Canada had seen her dance and never told her it was indecent.

In fact, her arrest at Club La Jolla last Saturday night was the first time she has ever been incarcerated for gliding around a dance floor clad only in a transparent veil and two tiny scraps of white froth, the dancer explained.

City Detective Kenneth Ice was called to the stand and gingerly held up the garments in question. They were tiny and indeed transparent.

From a manila envelope, Ice extracted two gayly colored tinsel discs, about the size of a half-dollar.

"And was Miss Flame wearing these discs when you ar-

rested her?" asked John Haynes, the dancer's attorney.

"I don't know," Ice blushingly acknowledged. "I didn't look that close."

City Magistrate Peter Sownie, Prosecutor Paul Cella and Haynes got together on a definition for the abbreviated costume worn by Miss Flame and agreed to call the items "panels" and "a G-string."

In addition, the prosecution introduced a rainbow colored scarf they said the dancer wore at the start of her act . . . but not for very long.

Ice said he would hesitate to define Miss Flame's performance as a dance.

"She stood in the middle of the floor and wiggled," he said. "Once in a while she moved to tables where men were sitting alone and wiggled there."

Haynes attempted, over repeated objections from the prosecution, to prove that many hundreds of people in other cities had witnessed the dance and never found it objectionable.

Cella countered by pointing

out that this particular performance was given in Tucson. The others didn't matter. It was how Miss Flame wiggled here that counted, he insisted.

Waitresses at the club testified that Ice and his fellow officer, Wayne Holmes, were mistaken when they said the dancer removed the transparent "panels" during her glide around the floor.

Both officers claimed they were correct. They borrowed a coat to cover the dancer and brought her to the station where she was booked on a charge of disorderly conduct, Holmes said.

After about five hours, the trial ended with Magistrate Sownie assessing fines of \$50 each on Miss Flame and Mrs. N. Abosketes, owner of the popular South Sixth avenue nite spot.

Haynes allowed cash bonds put up by his clients to be converted into payment of their fines but served verbal notice that he will appeal Mrs. Abosketes' conviction of operating a disorderly house.

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