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BLACKPOOL PRESENTS DANCERS INTERNATIONAL

At Blackpool's Empress Ballroom, the appeal of the old-time dance digs down into the moth balls. Out for airing were dresses that were in fashion when nobody had ever heard of Stafford Cripps, and a coupon was something attached to a theatre ticket. There were no half measures in grandma's day. You dressed to kill - and - so our cameraman tell us, one or two people nearly died this time.

Some of the gowns were really magnificent, from those made nearly 200 years ago to comparative youngsters of 100 years old or so. Some had been to so many dances they almost knew the steps.

Up to 2,000 dancers took part. Most of them came from International Sequence Dance Circles at Thornton Cleveleys, Fleetwood, St. Annes and Blackpool and there were representatives from Holland, America and Denmark. Queen of the show was this genial old lady of 83 - still enjoying the dance.

It's slow perhaps and you can do a lot of it without getting exhausted. But it has grace and a pleasing dignity of its own you'd go a long way before finding on a modern dance floor. Anyway it was better than 1927's famous Black Bottom.

And the jitterbugging of 1946.

Wouldn't you prefer something like this? It's Denmark's traditional Shoemaker's Dance.

But even that seems to take it out of the dancers. So maybe you can't dance - not even the Shoemaker's - without getting hot under the collar.