

Negro Wouldn't Take White Girl To Harlem

New York — The girl was slim and blonde, and she said her name was Rainbow. The boy at her side was Shadow, and they laughed easily together as they strolled hand-in-hand over the grassy, sun-drenched minihills of Central Park.

They stood for awhile around Bethesda fountain, grooving to the music of the flutes and guitars and the African drums. They looked like hundreds of other young couples of the Aquarian Generation who had gathered in the park—she in an orange Paraphernalia T-shirt and blue jeans; he in a blue cowboy shirt and brown suede pants. One thing, however, set them apart, Rainbow is white and Shadow is black.

They are part of what ap-

CHRISTMAS

The minstrels played their Christmas tune.
Tonight beneath my cottage eaves;
While, smitten by a lofty moon,
The encircling laurels, thick with leaves,
Gave back a rich and dazzling sheen,
That overpowered their natural green.

Through hill and valley every breeze
Had sunk to rest with folded wings;
Keen was the air, but could not freeze,
Nor check the music of the strings;
So stout and hardy were the band
That scraped the chords with strenuous hand.

And who but listened? till was paid
Respect to every inmate's claim;
The greeting given, the music play
In honor of each household name,
Duly pronounced with lusty call,
And "Merry Christmas" wished to all!

— William Wordsworth

pears to be a growing number of black and white young people throughout the country who are dating across racial lines. The powerful "Black is Beautiful" movement stressing racial pride among Negroes does not seem to have halted it. If anything, it has increased it as the black man — projecting a new image of aggressiveness, self-respect and more attractive to white women.

And it is usually the black man-white woman combination that is seen together in Manhattan, most often in such places as Central Park, or in Washington Square Park, or standing in line at the Third Avenue movie houses.

"We would never go to Harlem," said Shadow, a 24-year-old record producer, echoing a sentiment that most black-white couples share. "It's dangerous for us up there. You get all those black power people who don't appreciate the interracial thing. I mean, I like some parts of the black power movement—but I just don't dig the 'hate whitey' thing."

Shadow and Rainbow have been dating for a year but have no plans for marriage.

"It's just a very personal thing with us," Shadow said softly. "We don't do it for a cause or to further integration. We just like each other."

He said so far the couple had not encountered any hostility when they were together ("We usually go to places where our friends are," Rainbow, a 21-year-old folk singer from Houston, said).

Interracial dating appears to be easier in a situation such as that of Rainbow and Shadow, where the girl's parents live far away from New York. But when they live in the same area, a result is often sneak-dating.

This is the case of Denise M., 18, a gamin-faced Jewish girl from Queens who usually meets her black boyfriend in Central Park — where they fell in love at first sight a year ago while watching a Puerto Rican festival.

"You always hear about

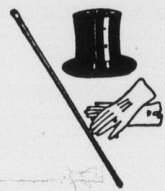
these bigoted parents, and you never think yours will be that way," Denise said as she sat on a blanket on a hill in Central Park with her boyfriend, Audley Haffenden, 25, of Brooklyn.

"My mother would die if she knew I was dating a black man," she went on. "She doesn't think black people are persons. She once told me that going out with a black man is like going out with no one at all."

Audley, a Well Street clerk who plans to go back to college to get a degree in business administration, said he believed the main reason there was not dating between Negro women and white men was because black women have not yet been elevated to the status where they are considered glamorous and desirable.

"White boys just don't look on the mas beautiful," he said, chewing on a blade of grass. "The blue-eyed chick with long blonde hair is the one you see in all the ads, the one who is the symbol of beauty in America. The black woman — despite all the songs and slogans — just doesn't measure up to this standard of beauty."

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