

Centennial Moment #8

From Frances' ongoing research in the Examiner archives, here is The Flapper Dictionary, published in four installments on May 4, 6, 8, and 10, 1922. I have blended all four into one list, as some words explain the others.

THE FLAPPER DICTIONARY

BROOKSEY BOY - A good dresser.
APPLE KNOCKER—A hay-shaker, hick, or gobby from the country.
BRUSH APE - An Apple Knocker, a country-Jake.
BUN DUSTER - A Piker who frequents teas and other entertainments without ever trying to repay his social obligations.
BUTT ME—Give me a cigarette.
CAKE EATER—A habitual Bun Duster
CAT'S PAJAMAS—Anything that is very good. (*Also Cat's Meow.*)
CELLAR SMELLER—A young man who always happens to be around when liquor is to be had without cost.
CHARLIE - Any fellow with a mustache.
CLUCK—A girl who is a clumsy dancer.
COW BOY—A young fellow who doesn't pay much attention to girls.
BARLOW— A Flapper or spring chicken.
BEASEL—A Flapper slightly more advanced than a Barlow.
BEASEL HOUND—A girl-chaser
BELL POLISHER—A Beasel Hound who likes to linger in the vestibule at 1 a.m.
BIG HEARTED—Complimentary adjective describing a young man who supplies the cigarettes.
BLOUSE—To leave or take the air.
BISCUIT—A pettable Barlow or Beasel. A game Flapper.
APPLE SAUCE—No good, awful.
BLAAH—Apple Sauce, anything that is no good.
BLOW THE JOINT—To Blouse in a hurry.
BOFFOS—Dollars, berries, or jack.
DUMBBELL—Dumb but happy.
BOOK LEGGER - A man who deals in suppressed novels, sold mostly to Dumbbells.
BOZÀRK— A stupid girl.
CUT GIVEN THE AIR—When a Flapper is thrown down on a date.
GLIMMERS—Eye.
COBBY—A Dumbbell who has no style, no pep, no nothing.
GOOF—A sap, a guy, a fish, a fellow.
GOOFY—State of being in love.
GREASE-BALL—An ill-mannered, poorly-dressed Cake Eater.
GREENS — Boffos, kale, dough, money.
GRUBBER—One who is always borrowing cigarettes.
GRUMMY—Despondent, blue.
JAMMED—Intoxicated, pickled, shellacked, canned, out like a light, potted, shined, drunk.

HALF-CUT—Happily intoxicated, as distinguished from being Jammed or Stewed.
HEAVY NECKER—A Biscuit, or Flapper, very fond of petting.
HOLAHOLY—A girl or boy who objects to necking.
HOLY SMOKES — Probation officers who visit dance halls to make sure that there is no improper dancing.
ANKLE EXCURSION—When a Flapper has to walk home.
HOOF—To go out for an Ankle Excursion.
HOT DOG—A joyous expression of approval.
HOUDINI—To be on time for a date.
IRONSIDES— Now obsolete —formerly used to denote girls who wore corsets while dancing. *(Bruce's note: Flappers didn't wear corsets. Soon, most women gave them up, to their great relief.)*
JANE—A girl who meets a fellow on the stoop.
JOLAPPY—Synonym for Flapper
AIR TIGHT—Very attractive.
BARNEY—Scandal-walker.
BARNEY-MUGGIN— Business of making love.
BEE'S KNEES — Peachy, very nice. Sometimes known as “The Berries.”
CRASH IN—To go to a party uninvited.
CRUMB GOBBLER— A Cake Eater or Bun Duster who makes a specialty of crashing in at teas.
DARBS— A person with money who can be relied on to pay the check.
DEW DROPPER — A Beasel Hound who does not work, sleeps all day and gets up at 6 p.m.
DINCHER— A half-smoked cigarette.
DUCK'S QUACK—The best thing ever.
DUDD— A boy or girl given to reading or study.
DUMBORA—Stupid girl.
EGG—A hard-boiled Cake Eater

Challenge: Can you make a sentence or two using these words?

Stay healthy everyone! Be the Bee's Knees!