THE WIGS AND GOWNS ON A BEACH

TWO youths who picked up a couple of girls late one Sunday night and took them on the sands at Kinmel Bay, North Wales, had a shock. For the girls turned out to be men.

Telling the magistrates at Abergele, Denbighshire, of the experience, 20-year-old Eric Edwards said of the girl he was with, "I thought her face felt a bit rough."

And the other youth, 17-year-old Kenneth Rossington, admitted that he walked home still believing that his late-night acquaintance was a woman.

Waved

The magistrates were shown two wigs—one blonde, the other brunette — two women's dresses and articles of underwear which, it was alleged, were worn by Bertie Barnard Jones, aged 39, and Frank Bell, aged 35.

Mr. Edgar Rees, prosecuting, said that Bell, who wore the blonde wig, pretended to be dumb, first to one of the youths and later to a police officer.

Edwards told the court he was motor-cycling home with Rossington when, at Kinmel Bay, two girls waved to them. They followed them down towards the sand dunes, where the girls separated. His friend went after the taller girl and he after the other.

She got on the pillion and they carried on to the sands.

After describing what happened then Edwards went on: "I started to think there was something funny and wondered whether she was a woman or a man. She smelled strongly of perfume and said nothing to me except 'No' once."

P.-c. Frederick Andrews, who was on patrol in the area, said that in the headlights of his car he saw Edwards with a woman wearing a purple and white spotted dress, green woollen jersey, yellow stole, nylon stockings and white wedge-heel shoes.

While he was talking to Edwards this woman joined another woman and they both walked away.

With Edwards he followed them in his car, but the women separated. Telling Edwards to follow the taller one, he chased the other.

"When she spoke I realised she was a man," said P.C. Andrews. "It was Jones.

"At the police station I asked why he had dressed in women's clothes. He replied: 'Frank suggested it. I only did it for fun.'"

Signs

Rossington also described an incident on the sand dunes.

"I followed the bigger of the two girls," he said. "I spoke to her but there was no reply. She only made signs with her hands.

"Then she took out a ball-pen and wrote something on a piece of paper from her handbag. I lit some matches but all I could make out was Stoke-on-Trent. I tried to make advances but was stopped."

P.C. Andrews told the court that soon after midnight he saw this woman standing near a milk machine.

"When I spoke to her," the officer went on, "she produced a sheet of pale blue paper. On it was written: 'I have just lost my friend. She has gone over there with a man. I have to wait for her. I am from Stoke-on-Trent Dumb School.'

Jones, of The Flats, Rhyl County Club, and Bell, of Russell-road, Rhyl, were committed for trial at Denbighshire Quarter Sessions, charged with indecency.

They were allowed bail.