

ACTRESS TRIES ON DRESS OF PEARLS

Tired After Wearing 27 Pound Dress Valued at 250 Thousand Dollars.

Hollywood, Aug. 13—Dark-eyed Rita Hayworth today draped herself in the world's most expensive gown—valued at \$250,000—and after it was all over she was so limp she could hardly walk.

The pretty little actress was not overcome with emotion, although she was the first to wear the gown. She was dog-tired from trying on the dress made of 40,000 pearls which weigh 27 pounds.

The fabulous gown has just been completed for the Imperial Pearl Syndicate of fine, matched pearls which it spent years collecting.

Miss Hayworth tried on the gown at a fashionable dress salon to determine whether it fitted her or would have to be adjusted before she could wear it this afternoon at a press showing.

After everyone in the salon had been looked over by a half dozen managers and detectives the dial on a huge safe was twirled and a plain cardboard box brought out.

The lid was opened and there it was—a solid mass of shimmering pearls.

With several feminine fitters to assist her, Miss Hayworth went behind a curtain.

"Shall I slip it over my head?" she asked.

"My dear, you couldn't even lift it over your head," she was told.

"Then how do I get it on?"

"Sit down on the floor, and as we slip it over your head, you rise and we will slide it down."

A few seconds later Miss Hayworth emerged. She was pearls from her neck to the floor. But when she tried to walk, she hobbled as if she was wearing a suit of chain armor.

"How do you like it?" she asked. Detectives gulped and coughed while salon employes looked ecstatic. For the actress looked as if she had been poured into pearls.

But the spell was broken when Miss Hayworth tried to walk around the room with the stately stride of a model. She was puffing for breath after a few steps.

While she was changing back to her slacks, we learned that the pearl syndicate hopes, through the display of the gown, to increase interest in pearls throughout the world.

The valuation of \$25,000 is for the pearls alone. Making the gown comes to several thousand dollars more. It took 150 hours to string the pearls, and 15 dressmakers of I. Magnin and Company worked three weeks embroidering them on chiffon foundation.

The pearls were arranged on the foundation according to size. At the shoulders they are very small and they graduate in size until at the floor line, they are almost the size of large peas.

Magnin designers explained that strings of larger pearls were worked into the upper portion to suggest stripes which run from the right shoulder to the left hip, and the skirt follows a sunburst pattern from the left hip to the hem. A large pearl-embroidered flower is fastened at the waistline.

During the making of the dress, a system of perpetual inventory was followed by constantly measuring the strings of pearls until they were embroidered to the gown.