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British Bride of Krum Soldier Is Still Anxious To See a Ten-Gallon Hat and Texas Bluebonnets

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An honest-to-goodness ten-gallon hat, spring complete with bluebonnets and a new wardrobe of coupon free clothes are the only things Mrs. Joe Allen Bridges, first British war bride to reach Denton since the end

of the war, has left to desire from Texas.

The smiling five-foot brunette who is a personified denial of British reserve arrived in Krum about 11 p. m. Monday and was met by her former soldier husband—and all of his hometown.

"Everyone is so nice to me I just don't know what to do," she laughed today in a voice that has the high-pitched nasal tone but not the traditional accent that most people expect from Britishers.

"Texas is just like I expected," she said, "but I still have not seen a real ten-gallon hat. . . . All the ones I've seen are too small for ten-gallons."

Mrs. Bridges, the former Miss Sheila Dymond of Croxley G, Hertshire, England , made her first trip to Denton Tuesday and is now anxious to begin buying first coupon-free clothes since the start of the war.

In England, adults were given 24 coupons every four months, she explained, and a coat cost 18 coupons and a dress from seven to 11 coupons.

The journey to Texas for the young English girl, however, has provided a great many "firsts since the start of the war" for her. She had her first fresh eggs since the start of the war just a few days before leaving England while in a deportation center and had her first banana in six years Sunday In St. Louis. Since arriving In Denton, she has been given her fill of all types of fresh fruits and is enjoying eggs every day—fresh from chickens owned by her husband.

The Denton county boy and the English girl met at a dance near her home in November. 1942, soon after he was sent overseas, and they were married Nov. 21, 1943. In September, 1944, the Denton Red Cross chapter started trying to get her a way to Denton. Negotiations were slow, though, and she had not seen her husband since March 11, 1945, until Monday night.

The couple are living with his sister, Mrs. C. H. Oliver in Krum now, but they intend to move to Denton as soon as housing facilities can be arranged in order to be closer to his work. He is employed by the Allen Butane Gas Co.



Joe Allen & Shelia Bridges