

Scotland-- Last days of Royal Visit-

July 5th. '55.

During a full day of Royal engagements, the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh received a real Scottish welcome at Falkirk, where Her Majesty inspected a Guard of Honour.

And lining the route to the Town Hall were members of the local Police Force, with their invaluable "four-footed" assistants.

Before leaving, the Royal visitors warmly acknowledged the loyal acclamations ~~of the citizens~~ ^{of} this East Stirlingshire town- the ~~main~~ centre of one of Scotland's most flourishing mining and ~~industrial~~ industrial districts.

On now to Grangemouth- where a balcony appearance was the signal for a heart-warming greeting.

And kindly recognition from the Duke gave a youthful trumpeter the proudest day of his life.

One of the highlights of this tour of eight Lowland towns, came at Linlithgow - (the ancient county town of West Lothian), where, preceded by Royal Archers, the Queen and her husband ~~entered~~ ^{VISITED} the Palace. Here they made an inspection of the ruins- historical reminders of Scotland's colourful past.

All too soon it was time to go, and the Royal Party bade farewell to this picturesque town- ^{once} the birthplace of Mary Queen of Scots, and her father ~~James the Fifth~~.

At the mining town of Whitburn, West Lothian, Her Majesty made a special point of meeting another crowned head- little Sandra Wood- the 11 year-old Queen of a local fete.

Last call of the tour through West Lothian was at the gaily-decorated ~~Royal~~ Burgh of South Queensferry, where the affectionate tributes of loyal subjects brought graceful Royal acknowledgment.

It was a memorable day indeed for Queensferry's Beauty Queen when she was presented to Her Majesty.

The tour had ended, and the Queen and the Duke journeyed through a pathway of cheers all the way back to Holyrood House.

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Here- at the Palace, massed pipe-bands voiced Scotland's thanks to her Royal visitors, during a colourful entertainment in the floodlit courtyard. Watching from a window, the Queen and the Duke were

sharped by a display of National ~~Country~~ ^{Country} dancing.

Then, amid the loyal cheers of a vast gathering, the Queen ~~presented~~ personally complimented the dancers- members of the Edinburgh branch of the Scottish Country-Dance Society.

During their stay in the Capital, the Queen and the Duke visited Fettes College, where they were warmly welcomed by Lord Hill Watson,

Chairman of the Governors, and the Headmaster, Mr Crichton Miller.

Highlight of the occasion was an attractive display of Highland dancing,

by the boys of the School- in honour of their distinguished guests.

The Royal departure was ~~led~~ led by a ^{Company} of riders at the end of a memorable visit to a famous Scottish Public School.

Further time-honoured pageantry at St Giles' Cathedral- when the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres and Lord Bilsland were installed as Knights of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle.

The installation was carried out in the Thistle Chapel- at the personal invitation of the Queen, ~~who~~ ^a Sovereign of the Order.

In the traditional procession, the Duke preceded the Queen- who wore the flowing dark-green velvet mantle of the Order.

One of the oldest Orders of Chivalry in Europe, the Order of the Thistle was founded by an early Scottish King and re-established by James the Second, in the 17th Century.