

DALKEITH WEDS

A crowd of 20,000 throngs the streets of Edinburgh to give greetings to the Earl of Dalkeith and his bride Miss Jane McNeill who are to be married in St. Giles Cathedral. 1,600 guests, including the Royal Family, are invited to this "Wedding of the New Year." Nearly a thousand of them are employees from the three estates of the Duke of Buccleuch, father of the groom.

Frocks of white organza, red mittens and shoes are worn by the four little bridesmaids attending the young girl soon to become the Countess of Dalkeith. Six pages, led by young Prince Richard of Gloucester, will also be in attendance during the ceremony that will unite two of Scotland's most distinguished families.

Now members of the Royal Family begin to arrive. First are the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester. With them is their young son, Prince William. The Duchess wears a velvet coat and hat, with a mutation mink stole.

The crowd presses forward as Her Majesty's car drives up to the entrance to St. Giles Cathedral. The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and Princess Margaret have journeyed to Edinburgh from Sandringham for this joyous occasion. Following the Duke, comes Princess Margaret (wearing mole-coloured velvet fitted coat and beret hat). Now comes Her Majesty the Queen, in a royal blue woollen coat and matching hat.

Now the bride herself arrives. With her is her father, Mr. John McNeill. And what a picture she makes on this dull winter's day, in a gown of white French lace, embroidered in silver. Her waist-length tulle veil is held in place by a diamond tiara, lent to her by the Duchess of Buccleuch. In a shimmer of silver and white, the 22-year-old bride makes her way into the great cathedral.

The pipes of the Edinburgh City Police Band herald the appearance of the bride and groom, now the Earl and Countess of Dalkeith, as they make their way to the lavish reception to be held in their honour. The happy couple are to spend their honeymoon in Corsica; but now comes news that their aircraft has been delayed by the bad weather and they must make the first stage of their journey by train to London. This is the only disappointment in a great day — Now the people of Scotland give the newly-weds the age-old wish — a very long and happy life together.