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THE ST. HELENA

“ WIREBIRD ”



FEBRUARY,
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VISIT OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH 22nd JANUARY, 1957

A few minutes before sunset on the eve of the Duke's visit, Reggie George could be seen writing the traditional words of welcome on the lower wall of the donkey path above the town. St. Helena was then all set for the most important event in the last ten years of the Island's history.

As Britannia sailed into the roadstead even the porpoises played their part by gambolling in front of the bows of the graceful Royal Yacht. Despite the difficulty of using a forty-five foot motor launch to land at the Wharf steps, the royal barge was used to bring His Royal Highness ashore. Previously, Royalty had been forced to use a humble rowing boat like all other visitors, but so skilfully was the barge handled that only a small patch of paintwork was damaged in the process.

The Duke, with his newly grown beard trimmed in contrast to his war-time edition, was obviously in fine fettle and ready to enjoy his visit to our historic Island. After being officially greeted by His Excellency the Governor, Lady Harford and their daughter Priscilla, he shook hands with the Bishop, the Sheriff and Mrs. Solomon, members of the councils and their wives.

Using the same car that had been used by His Majesty King George VI when he visited the Island in 1947 accompanied by our present Queen, the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret, His Royal Highness drove past the long line of cheering flag-waving children who lined the route to the Parade Ground. His Excellency then took the Duke to see the Castle, giving

all the people who had welcomed His Royal Highness at the Wharf, time to return to the main parade. On parade, under the charge of the parade commander, Mr. Walter Benjamin of Hutt's Gate, were the organised bodies of ex-service-men, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Rangers, Brownies, Red Cross, Salvation Army and the three friendly societies.

Leaving the Castle, His Royal Highness mounted the Courthouse steps and the St. Helena Band, conducted by Mr. Maurice Young, played the National Anthem. After the inspection of the parade, when His Royal Highness stopped to speak to many of the members of the various contingents, Mr. Homfray Solomon as sheriff read the following address of welcome:

"It is a great joy to the people of St. Helena once more to welcome a member of the Royal Family among us.

The visit of Her Majesty the Queen as a Princess with Her Royal Parents in 1947 is fresh in the memory of most of us and is a cherished link with our beloved Sovereign.

On behalf of all in St. Helena I offer Your Royal Highness our best wishes for your health and happiness. We trust that in the short time available to you at this Island in the course of your long voyage, you will be able to feel the deep and affectionate loyalty of all the people of St. Helena and that you will enjoy seeing some of the beauties and historical monuments of the Island.

We beg that on your return to England Your Royal Highness will convey to the Queen the assurances of our unfailing loyalty and devotion to Her Majesty's Person and to the Throne.

May I now on behalf of all of us present to Your Royal Highness, for the Queen and yourself gifts of local work subscribed for by all the people of the Island, and ask you to accept at the hands of two St. Helenian children presents for the Duke of Cornwall and Princess Anne".

Mr. Solomon then presented the lace table set made by Mrs. Phyllis Peters and Miss Audrey Francis of High Hill for the Queen, and an inlaid cigarette box made by the Nicholls family of Barrack Square, for the Duke himself. Nine year old Keith Augustus, son of P.C. Augustus of Alarm Forest, then presented a pencil box, inlaid with the wirebird crest and monogrammed 'C', for Prince Charles which was also made by the Nicholls family. A similar pencil box for Princess Anne was then gracefully presented by six year old Thelma George, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Owen George of Upper Jamestown.

In reply His Royal Highness spoke these words:—

"I am most grateful to you, Mr. Sheriff, for your words of welcome and to all the people of St. Helena for the kind and friendly reception you have given me today.

I also want to thank you all for your delightful presents which I shall take home with great pleasure. I am sure they will bring back many happy memories to The Queen of her visit here ten years ago. Before I left home in October last year she particularly asked me to convey her best wishes to all her people of St. Helena.

I have heard a lot about this Island from The Queen, so I am now very happy to be here, and I am looking forward to seeing as much as possible in one short day.

I am very concerned to learn that your flax industry is having grave difficulties. This is particularly serious because, like so many of the islands I have visited, everything depends on the one industry. One of the most striking features of the modern world is the speed with which things change. As new

discoveries make some things unwanted they nearly always make demands for something new.

But, whatever happens, no island community can rest easy with all its eggs in one basket or if it is entirely dependent on the outside world. I am happy to learn, therefore, that your Government, with the help of the Government at home, is working hard to find a variety of activities suitable for St. Helena.

I hope their efforts will be successful, and I can assure you that The Queen and I will watch your progress with interest and sympathy.

I wish you all good luck and good fortune for the future".

After leaving the Parade, the Duke made a brief visit to the new General Hospital where all the members of staff were presented, and where he spoke to many of the patients. He returned to open the Island's first Recreation Ground which had been constructed on the site of the old Jamestown graveyard. His Royal Highness, noting the irrepressible children who had been allowed in the Recreation Ground for the first time to witness the opening, and who just couldn't wait to use the new swings and slide, said, to the great amusement of the large audience, "You seem to have got me here under false pretences. I came here to open the playing ground and find it already full of children. However, if it will ease your consciences at all, I now declare it open".

Next on the list was Jacob's Ladder which His Royal Highness viewed before inspecting Messrs. Ovenstone's new fish canning factory and driving to Plantation House in order to change into civilian clothes.

A large crowd was present outside the gates of Longwood Old House and Mrs. 'Alfie' Joshua led them in giving three loud cheers as His Royal Highness passed between them. From Napoleon's house of exile the Duke then went

to the Emperor's empty tomb where he completed the planting of an olive tree.

The cavalcade was moving across Stitches Ridge when His Royal Highness stopped to admire the spectacular view of Sandy Bay. At the Bamboo Hedge Flax Mill, Mr. George Moss the Mills Manager and Councillor Kenneth Legg the Mill Foreman, together with some of the Mill staff and many spectators were waiting to greet His Royal Highness. Here he watched the whole flax milling process, from the unloading of the donkeys to the baling of the hemp, with great interest. He admired a picture of the mill painted by one of the staff Mr. Percy Williams, and graciously accepted it. Before returning to Plantation House, he made a lighting visit to the A. & F. Department at Scotland.

After lunch, His Royal Highness drove with His Excellency the Governor to Windy Point above West Lodge where he spoke to most of the local residents who were gathered there. On his return, he visited Francis Plain where a cricket game was in progress between a Royal Yacht team and an island eleven. The members of the local team were well rewarded for their generous gesture to the visiting ship by being presented to His Royal Highness.

Our Royal visitor was afforded little rest for he then returned to Plantation House where the largest garden party ever to be held on the Island was taking place. Among the three hundred guests were representatives of every aspect of life on the island, from shepherd to shop-owner and from flax cutter to fisherman. Here His Royal Highness made a point of speaking to as many of the people who were bred and born on the island as time permitted.

When he arrived at the Wharf in order to return to Britannia, he found most of the Island population waiting there to give him a royal send-off. The Duke responded by continually waving, stopping only to bend down and pop up with a tiny thumb size camera at the ready, in order to take a picture of the cheering crowds to show, we imagine, to our gracious Queen at a later date.

At eight o'clock prominent St. Helenians and members of the Government were entertained to a dinner party held on board the Royal Yacht. Soon after the guests returned and at exactly eleven o'clock, a signal gun was fired and Britannia sailed away, brilliantly illuminated against the dark northern sky.

E. J. Wagstaff.

TRIAL RUN

THE Education Department recently had occasion to try out the Bedford Ambulance as a school bus, but instead of taking children from their lessons, an adult load was carried.

Mr. G. C. Lawrence had the excellent idea of asking some of the residents in the Parish Home to come along, and Mr. R.F. Broadway was most prompt in arranging for the following to "come for a ride"—Lilian Thomas, Amy Leo, Martha Conolly, Daphne Yon, William Grace, Henry Knipe and James

Moyce. Mrs. Davids came along to keep a matronly eye on her charges, who were surprisingly agile in climbing aboard.

Surprisingly, because Martha, Amy and Henry together can muster over 250 years between them! However, with the rear of the ambulance bowed almost to the ground, the test began. The weather was unkind throughout, and rain made it difficult to see through the windows, but in spite of this the "old uns" kept up a running commentary all the way, just to prove that

neither their eyesight nor their memories were failing.

Ladder Hill was surmounted in bottom gear, but an attempt to climb past Bleak House was too much for the poor Bedford, and it was not until the combined weights of the new E. O., Mr. Lawrence and Messrs. W. Grace and J. Moyce had removed themselves into the wet that Mr. Thomas was able to get moving again. The road near

Three Tanks was again too much of a strain, and the ambulance returned to Jamestown. It then made a slow but steady climb up Side Path, and returned again to the Home.

Opportunities to combine business and pleasure are very few, but it is hoped that similar excursions can be arranged in the future. This one was so much worth while.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Editors accept no responsibility for opinions expressed by correspondents

The Editors,
"Wirebird".
Sir,

I hope you will allow me to use a little of your space to express to the people of St. Helena my thanks for a memorable experience. I have done my best to meet as many people as possible. There are, I know, some I ought to have met but time has been too short to do all I would have liked. I can only apologize to those, I hope not many, who may feel neglected, and assure them that no slight was intended.

While St. Helena is unique in many respects, there are certain features of its life which are familiar to one like myself who has had long experience of Colonial problems and a personal knowledge of a number of Colonial island territories. One thing which has struck me particularly forcibly is the excellent way in which St. Helena has used the money made available from the United Kingdom under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts. Britain has her own difficulties and the millions of pounds she has given, and continues to give to her overseas territories, while provided without hesi-

tation, are harder to spare than they used to be. It is therefore all the more pleasing to me to see the money given to St. Helena used to such good purpose.

It would be unrealistic for me to pretend that I have found conditions generally bright and reassuring. I was, of course, aware of the island's economic difficulties before I got here, but acquaintance with them at close quarters has made them much more real to me. The experience has been salutary, and I know that for long as I am concerned officially with St. Helena affairs, and I hope that that will be for a long time yet, I shall deal with them with much greater sympathy and understanding because of my visit.

I would like to thank all those who have given me their time and who, socially, have done so much to make my visit pleasant.

It remains to wish everyone on the island good bye and the best of luck in the future.

Yours sincerely,
M. R. Willis.
(Colonial Office,
London.)

THE CHURCH ON THE ISLAND

ONCE upon a time the 'Church of England' was to be found only in England until the

days came when so many Englishmen went overseas that where they were there also was their Church,

e.g. in St. Helena. But a really alive Church can never be content to 'keep itself to itself', and so more and more Englishmen shared their Faith with other peoples among whom they were living, e.g. in Africa, India, China. Englishmen also sent missionaries, or messengers of the Faith, to other lands and isles to strange peoples, e.g. when Rajah Brooke acted the strong man in the wild island of Borneo a century or more ago he sent home to England for missionaries in the conviction that the people of Borneo needed the Christian Faith.

Now if we want to speak quite accurately we should not talk of the Church of England, as though the English people had a national Church of their own, distinct from the Church of other peoples. There is and can only be ONE Church of Christ: The Church. Much mistaken thinking might have been avoided if we had always spoken not of the Church of England, but of the Church in England. But now in this mid Twentieth Century the Church in England has for so long been busy sending all over the world the Faith as it is there held and taught and practised that another name has had to be coined for that vast world-wide family of Christians who owe their faith to the English branch of the Church. The 'Anglican Communion' in the life of the Church might be compared with the British Commonwealth in the world of nations. The ties that bind the many peoples of the Commonwealth are not easy to describe, the chief is doubtless loyalty to the British crown. Nor is it very easy to explain just what are those invisible, but very real ties and distinctions that bind in a

special spiritual kinship all the provinces and dioceses of the Anglican Communion. We sometimes express it that we are all 'in communion' with Canterbury: for all our archbishops and bishops receive invitations every decade from the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Lambeth Conference. We of the Anglican Communion have our own special understanding of the one Catholic Faith and our own characteristic way of expressing it in worship. The whole Family of God includes, of course, other branches of the Catholic Church, and we are proud to belong also to that wider Family, but none the less specially happy with our own wonderful English (or Anglican) Understanding of the Faith, and Way of Worship.

Here we are on our Island of St. Helena, very small, and in some ways very cut off from the Wider World, so that this fact of 'belonging' in such real spiritual kinship should be a great joy and source of strength to us. We should recall it specially at times when we find the practice of our Faith difficult or when we are a bit discouraged, or when we think we are fighting a lone battle. Quite soon we shall have begun the season of Lent with its call to 'gird up our loins' to remember again our solemn baptismal and confirmation vows: and to seek with more care the means of grace to enable us to keep them. When we remember that millions of fellow Christians with whom we are bound closely in common Faith and worship are making the same efforts, and are lovers and disciples of the same Lord we shall tread the road with a much lighter and more confident step.

WEDDING

THE Wedding took place on Wednesday, 16th January, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul of Mr. George Stuart Moss

of Teutonic Hall and Cecilia Ann Rankin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Rankin of Rosemary Field. The service was conducted by the

Bishop of the Diocese, His Lordship the Right Reverend G. P. L. Turner, assisted by the Reverend Keith Flint, vicar of Jamestown.

The bride, who was given away by her father, the Managing Director of Messrs. Solomon & Co. (St. Helena) Ltd., wore a full length dress of white lace with a short train and a long sleeved close fitting coat. Her long tulle veil was held in place by a coronet of orange blossom. She carried a lovely bouquet of pale pink roses.

The bridesmaid, Miss Priscilla Harford, daughter of His Excellency the Governor and Lady Harford, wore a ballet-length dress of deep pink taffeta with a close-fitting bodice and carried a bouquet of white roses.

The bridegroom is Flax and Coffee Manager for Solomon & Co. The best man was Mr. Lawrence Self, a friend of the bridegroom.

A large wedding reception was held after the ceremony at Rosemary Field.

BAHRAINI PRISONERS IN ST. HELENA

(Officially contributed)

ON Sunday 27th January one of H. M. Ships arrived at St. Helena bringing three Bahraini subjects for detention in the Island. They are now housed under guard at the former searchlight station at Munden's Point which had been specially prepared for the purpose.

These three men had been prominent members of a Committee of Nationalists in Bahrain. They had been tried by the court of the Ruler of Bahrain for offences against the state after disturbances which took place there early in November, and sentenced to 14 years imprisonment. Request was made by the Ruler for assistance in their removal to a British territory, and their detention in St. Helena has been arranged with Her Majesty's Government and the Government of St. Helena.

The actual procedure adopted was for the Colonial Prisoners Re-

moval Act, 1869 to be applied to Bahrain by Order of Her Majesty in Council. Addresses were then presented by the Ruler of Bahrain and the Governor of St. Helena to the Crown seeking Her Majesty's sanction for the transfer of these prisoners. The Order in Council containing this sanction was published locally in a special Gazette on 22nd December, 1956.

Bahrain Island is situated in the Persian Gulf off the Arabian coast. It is 27 miles long and 10 miles wide. The population, mainly Arab, of Bahrain and the other islands in the group is 110,000. It is an independent Shaikhdom, with a British Adviser. Bahrain is the centre of the pearl fishing industry of the Persian Gulf, and there is also a flourishing oil industry, operated by an American-owned Company. Its oil refinery is the fifth largest in the world.

ST. HELENA DIARY

IT is unfortunate that there are so few copies of the histories of St. Helena on the Island; the only copies available to most of us are in the Public Library. We owe a debt of gratitude therefore to Mr. Norman Kerr who took the battered and tattered copies of 'Melliss' and 'Beatson' back to

England for rebinding. They have been returned to us most beautifully bound in leather, one in the traditional style and the other in contemporary style. Hand bound and tooled by one of Mr. Kerr's former pupils, they are exquisite examples of fine craftsmanship and design. It is the duty of all of us

to preserve on the island the accounts of its history, for the benefit of future generations. 'Melliss' and 'Beatson' should last for 500 years at least, according to the foreman of the bindery; but has he heard of our white ants? Our grateful thanks are due to the East Suffolk County Public Library Department who made no charge for carrying out this costly work.

* * *

History was made on the day of the Royal Visit when an account was heard on the Home Service of the B.B.C. that had been broadcast from the island itself. In 1947

the commentator broadcasted from the ship.

* * *

On Wednesday the 6th British India Line ship 'Uganda' repeated its Christmas Day performance of having a very close look at Jamestown. The boatmen wish the Captain would transfer to the Union Castle Line, then they would need to row the passengers only one quarter of the usual distance!

* * *

Perhaps the Britannia ought to have been placed in quarantine—judging by the epidemic of beards that followed her visit.

OUR DAILY BREAD

By Haddon Rowat

AT one time in the world's past history in Egypt, a baker who sold defective bread was nailed by the ears to the doorpost of his shop. Likewise in ancient Rome any purveyor or producer who was convicted of lowering the quality of the basic food of the people was hanged. Today in the civilized world over, bread that is sold to the public is deprived, adulterated and poisoned to an extent that makes medieval tampering seem trivial. (I am not blaming the local bakers!) Now the point is do you care a button if this is true—or not? Most Millers and bakers, many Governments and lots of ordinary folk say you do not care a rap. I am one of those who maintain that if you do not care, either for yourselves or your children, it is because custom, advertisement and pressure is largely a one way traffic. The ruin of our bread began about 1870 with the invention of steel-roller Mills. With the old type of stone crusher all the grain, including the germ of the wheat was ground into flour only the husk being sifted out. Today practically none of those parts which contain the vitamins and minerals essential to full health

remain in the flour, which is finally known as the 70 per cent loaf.

This term simply means that 70 per cent B-Y W-E-I-G-H-T of the Wheat is made into flour—the rest is called Offals! But note—this flour does not contain 70 per cent of everything. It does not contain 70 per cent of the vitamins and vital trace elements—for example. We may now ask "Why do Millers and bakers and flour monopolists press a low grade quality loaf?" Well firstly because there are higher profits to be got from 'Offals' which constitute our poultry, cattle and pig foods. Animals require 'live' foods both to keep healthy and to produce milk, eggs and meat. Secondly medical vitamin and roughage preparations are also a source of great profits and again some people say they like that sort of bread. During the War because saving shipping space was paramount and the nations' health considered before minority interests, the British Government compulsorily fixed the extraction rate at 85 per cent, this nearly doubling its nutritional value. Wise feeding is the greatest weapon known against disease and which preventive medicine has in its hands. Yet

in the U. S. A. today, where bread seems merely used as a tray to carry to the mouth succulent jams and pastes, over 100 million dollars a year is spent on laxatives alone. There is little sound evidence that whole-meal bread causes indigestion except in persons too long deprived of it. Incorporating 'Agene', and employing misleading labels like 'fat extenders' are devices by the Trade to make bread making, retailing and storage easier. 'Agene' has been outlawed in some countries but what other steps are afoot? Something is being done in pre and post natal clinics and the provision of supplementary school meals. In some American townships children are encouraged to bring their own pet mice and to observe the different rates of growth and health standards shown from feeding on (a) white bread (b) standard bread. However the central position remains that so long as flour mills obstruct enquiry and the Food Ministry merely directs investi-

gators to the Millers, real reform will take a long time.

[Editors Note:]

We think it would be of interest to mention that the flour now being imported into the Island comes from Canada.

It is called "Canadian Beauty Special", and is made from high quality Canadian Hard Spring Wheat being blended from several strains.

The extraction rate of this flour is 70—72 per cent, as any higher extraction rate is very difficult to store in this climate.

It is however, enriched by the addition of calcium carbonate vitamin B, nicotinic acid and iron. These additions bring it up to the food value of flour of a much higher rate of extraction.

This was ascertained from the report of the "Panel on Composition and Nutritive value of Flour", whose members were nominated by the Royal Society, and were all most eminent scientists.

Births

Dec. 27 John Melvyn Fuller
 „ 30 Robert N. Lawrence
 Jan. 1 Jeffrey Cecil Francis
 „ 3 Lynette Ann Joshua
 „ 3 Andrea John Piek
 „ 5 Vida Gwyneth John
 „ 10 Rosalie Maud Yon
 „ 11 Jennifer Rose Cranfield
 „ 11 Mervyn Eli Crowie
 „ 11 Mavis Dorothy March
 „ 11 Anthony Rex Peters
 „ 12 Philip Arthur Robinson
 „ 12 Mathorothy V. Thomas
 „ 14 Colin Peter Graham
 „ 14 Ursula Jean Thomas
 „ 17 Colin John Bennett
 „ 18 Christopher D. Clingham
 „ 19 Melvina Ann Caesar
 „ 23 Sandra Ann Augustus
 „ 28 Brenda Cicely Peters
 „ 28 Errol Ian Thomas
 „ 31 Mavis Irene George

Marriages

Jan. 16 Kenneth Harold Bargo
 Cavel Greta Leo

Jan. 16 George Stuart Moss
 Cecilia Rankin
 Jan. 26 Isaac Frederick Henry
 Ethel Louisa Francis

Deaths

Jan. 3 Cyril Simon 49 yrs.
 „ 26 B. A. Constantine 19 „
 „ 30 Henry Herne 52 „

Winner of last month's Puzzle
 George Reynolds

We would like to thank all the competitors from whom a total of 14 correct entries was received.

St. Helena Cricket League

Points at end of 1st Round

Teams	Matches played	Points obtained
Jamestown 'B'	3	12
St. Matthew's	3	8
Half Tree Hollow	3	4
St. Paul's	2	0
Jamestown 'A'	1	0

Kalendar for March

1 Friday	New Moon. Children's Concert at Levelwood School. Folk Dance—Longwood School.
2 Saturday	Concert repeated. Cricket—St. Paul's v H. T. Hollow.
3 Sunday	Quinquagesima.
5 Tuesday	Shrove Tuesday.
6 Wednesday	Ash Wednesday.
8 Friday	Folk Dance—Infants' School.
9 Saturday	Moon—First Quarter. Cricket—Jamestown "B" v Jamestown "A".
10 Sunday	Quadragesima.
11 Monday	Cinema Show—Country School.
13 Wednesday	Cinema Show—Blue Hill School.
14 Thursday	Cinema Show—Half Tree Hollow School. African Enterprise" scheduled to arrive from N.Y.
15 Friday	"Braemar Castle" scheduled to arrive from S. A. Folk Dance—Longwood School.
16 Saturday	Full Moon. Cricket—St. Matthew's v H. T. Hollow.
18 Monday	Cinema Show—Longwood School.
19 Tuesday	Cinema Show—Levelwood School.
20 Wednesday	Cinema Show—Sandy Bay School.
22 Friday	Folk Dance—Infants' School.
23 Saturday	Moon—Last Quarter. Cricket—St. Paul's v Jamestown "A".
27 Wednesday	"Rhodesia Castle" due to arrive from United Kingdom.
29 Friday	Folk Dance—Longwood School.
30 Saturday	Cricket—Jamestown "B" v St. Matthew's.
31 Sunday	New Moon.

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