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CUSTOMS AND CEREMONIES ROYAL BIRTHS DATE BACK INTO HISTORY

By KATHLEEN COURLANDER

Although the baby born to Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh is a commoner at the time of its birth as its father is not a Royal Duke, it stands, nevertheless, in the direct line of succession to the Throne, second only to its mother. The birth, therefore, recalls some historic customs which have long

been maintained when a Royal infant arrives in Britain. One of these, now dispensed with, was that a Minister of the Crown should await the birth of the newborn in an adjoining room. Stress was long laid on this tradition, especially if there was any likelihood that the child would one day become the reigning sovereign.

This attendance was due to a famous constitutional crisis which occurred in Britain 260 years ago. Queen Mary of Modena, second wife of King James II, whose previous babies had died in infancy, gave birth prematurely to the child who was known later as "The Old Pretender." Although when this baby was born at St. James' Palace the Queen's apartments were thronged with Royal adherents, no Minister or responsible dignitary such as the Archbishop of Canterbury, was present. The Whigs, a political party who opposed James II and wished to see his son-in-law, William of Orange and his Protestant wife Mary on the Throne of Britain, maintained that the new prince was an inconspicuous infant who had been smuggled into the Royal bed-chamber in a warming pan, and that he was not the legal heir to the Throne.

After that occasion it became usual for a Minister who was constitutional representative of the government to be present in the palace or in the mansion where the birth was imminent.

Thus, for the birth on November 9, 1841, of the eldest son of Queen Victoria (afterwards Edward VII) the infant's father, Prince Albert, summoned for the event the Prime Minister, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Duke of Wellington. Mr. Asquith, who was later Lord Oxford and Asquith, Home Secretary of Britain in 1894, hurried to White Lodge, Richmond Park, when Prince Edward of York (now Duke of Windsor) was born. Similarly on April 21, 1926, Sir William Joynson-Hicks (Britain's Home Secretary at the time) went in the early hours of the morning to 17 Bruton Street, London, to be present in the house when Princess Elizabeth was born.

POMP AND CEREMONY

In olden times much pomp and ceremony preceded a Royal birth. It was the custom to prepare the Royal bed-chamber by hanging arras (tapestry) on the walls of the Queen's apartment. This usually had a design of fleur-de-lys on a blue ground; no tapestry with figures woven into it was permitted as it was feared this might possibly frighten the Royal mother. The confinement pallet of Queen Elizabeth (Henry VII's wife) had a velvet canopy of many colors, and was striped with gold and garnished with red roses. Some days before the birth of her child this Queen bade farewell to the courtiers and retreated to her own apartments, where no man was allowed to enter. Her women

acted as stewards and butlers.

Britain's present Princess Elizabeth was christened five weeks after her birth in the Chapel Royal, Buckingham Palace. The occasion was a family one, and only her relations were present in the chapel (which had been built for Queen Victoria). This chapel, which was converted from a conservatory, has a flat coppered ceiling and is supported by 16 white columns. At the west of the altar, and at the east a gallery containing a Royal pew. The gold vessel known as the Lilly Font, designed in 1540 for Queen Victoria's children, was brought from Windsor for the occasion. According to an old custom it was filled with water brought from the river Jordan. This tradition has been adhered to in the British Royal Family from the days of the Crusaders, who first brought this water to Britain from Palestine. The Princess was baptized Elizabeth Alexandra Mary by the late Dr. Lang, Archbishop of Canterbury.

IMPRESSIVE CEREMONIAL

The first Royal child to be christened in this chapel was the Princess Royal, Queen Victoria's eldest daughter, and on this occasion the furniture and

(Continued on Page Six)

Reminiscences and Reflections

By W.J.

"Male child," whispered a Buckingham Palace servant to a police officer on duty near the main entrance last Sunday. Outside, an eager multitude pressed and guessed and wondered.

"It's a boy," shouted the constable. And for once, a policeman became the most popular man in town.

According to advice from Ottawa, no investigation of an official character will be made into the wrecking of the Egg Island light and the thrilling escape and days of exposure and hardship suffered by the Wilkins family. Could it be possible for Ottawa to unbend enough to establish and maintain a coast guard on what is, in certain seasons, one of the wildest and most dangerous shore lines in all Canada? The expenditure of public money is often spent for far less useful purposes.

An Evening Empire personal note, November 1, 1930, says Mrs. James C. Brady and family, moving to Ottawa, were given a rousing send-off, enlivened by a pipe band. The pipers were Alex McDonald, Jim Sturgeon and Hugh Smith and Drummer Kelly. That was 18 years ago. Mrs. Brady, whose amiability and gifts as an entertainer were so well recognized, will be long remembered here.

It is planned to have Tagwell Island the site of a landing field

for aeroplanes. There will be a strip 4,500 feet in length. The trim little island within handy distance of town has always been a favorite spot for summer outings. But really, my dear Watson, you cannot but admit it's much better to have passenger planes land there than picnic parties.

In some lines, the cost of goods is going down and how long this soothing state of affairs will last can only be conjectured. Let gratitude be felt. Yet, comes the disconcerting rumor that more men are being laid off. Again, the same old chestnut—"always something to take the joy out of life." Why, when things call for less cash, should earnings start shrinking or stop?

MOOSE PLANNING 'CHAPTER NIGHT'

Plans for the forthcoming "Chapter Night" of the Women of the Moose were begun at a meeting of the organization's homemaker committee held at the home of Graduate Regent Mrs. Sam Haugan. Present at the meeting were Mrs. O. Stegavig, Mrs. R. Giske, Mrs. J. Kasper, Mrs. B. J. Bacon, Mrs. R. Fossum, Mrs. R. B. Skinner and Mrs. H. Muncey. Refreshments, served by the hostess, brought the meeting to a close.

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MORE JUVENILE TEAMS IN ACTION

Spirited Play in High School Basketball Section

More teams of the Juvenile Basketball League went into action Tuesday afternoon. There was, as usual, a large crowd of team supporters.

In the first game High 4 defeated High 3 by 26 to 3. The first half was slow with both teams trying hard. High 4 had the edge and shut out High 3 10 to 0 at the half. In the third quarter High 3 broke into the scoring column and made all their points, Chandler scoring a field goal and Dennison a foul shot. High 4 continued scoring and piled up a big lead. Erickson and Smith led High 4. All the players played hard and are learning the game.

The second game saw Borden School gain their second win by beating Annunciation School 12 to 7. This game was nearly an upset as Annunciation threatened to beat a more experienced Borden team. The score at the end of the first half was 4 to 2 for Annunciation. They had the edge in play in this half. In the second half the more experienced Borden players started to hit the basket and were never headed. Annunciation showed a good working game and should not some wins in their future games.

Individual scoring:
High 3—Blackaby, Chandler 2, Dennison 1, Hoggan, Leigh, Christenson, Dunn—3.
High 4—Smith 8, Brenson, Leighton 4, Erickson 14, Scherk, Antrobus, Youngs, Kaardal, Brewerton—26.
Borden—J. Parnell 6, Atkins 2, P. Parnell, E. Findlay, Nelson, Saville, Anton 4—12.
Annunciation—Fitzgread 2, Slack, Gable 5, Turcotte, Lyons, Rousseau, Dumas, Basso, Bury—7.

S.O.N. HOLD WHIST DRIVE

Sons of Norway held the first of their winter series of card parties in the lodge hall on Fifth Avenue Friday evening. Winners of the whist tournament were Mrs. O. Pedersen and Mrs. Otto Briemo and Hans Pedersen and Alf Jensen. Dancing, with music by Mike Colussi on the piano accordion followed the whist drive.

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