

The Liverpool Echo, Friday, November 2, 1979.

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No. 31,001

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1979

10p

Thousands greet the Queen



All smiles as the Queen meets the people.

Philip jokes with officials

CROWDS of thousands gave the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh a flag-waving rapturous welcome in Chester to-day, when they arrived for a tour of Cheshire.

STORY: Tony Riley, Ian Callister and Carolyn Taylor. PICTURES: Stephen Shakeshaft and Ron Broster.

Children squatted on their parents' shoulders, as the crowds strained for a glimpse of the Royal Couple, on the route from the station to the Cathedral.

The huge crowds, many of whom had been waiting since noon after dawn, were swollen by thousands of flag-waving schoolchildren, given the day off. The Queen, paying her first official visit to Chester for 22 years, and the Duke, were met by the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, Lord Leverhulme, when they stepped off the Royal train.

He presented to them the Mayor of Chester, Councillor H. Jones, the High Sheriff of Cheshire, Mr. J. K. Barlow, and the chairman of Cheshire County Council, Councillor George Ford.

The Royal party went to the Town Hall for presentations, before going to the Cathedral for the highlight of their visit to the city—the service of Thanksgiving, to commemorate the founding of Chester, 1,500 years ago. The Queen in a pink outfit and looking radiant in the autumn sunshine, stopped repeatedly to chat to spectators as she and Prince Philip walked from the Cathedral to the Town Hall.

One of those she spoke to was Mrs. Audrey Cooke, of Shepherds Lane, Newton, near Chester, who had been waiting since 8 o'clock with her seven-year-old son, Graham. He handed her a brass rubbing depicting a knight.

During presentations in the Town Hall, the Prince asked a question which he knew that it was 1,500 years since the city was founded. "I have seen the age on a pipe," said the dignitary, "do you see it there?" rejoined the Prince.

On the three-mile journey from Chester to Mollington Grange Farm, the motorcade continually slowed down for the Queen to acknowledge the cheering bystanders and at the same time to be met by company head Mr. William Oulton Wade, who showed her a cheese processing plant.

She was presented with a 50lb cheese at the end of her whistle-stop tour. Hundreds of flag-waving children, who were given the day off school, greeted the Queen and Prince Philip at the Port Bot Museum, 15 minutes behind schedule.

The Royal couple toured the complex where a special display was put on by the North-West Museum of Inland Navigation.

It included youngsters from the town's Sutton Green and Prince Philip were dressed in 19th century costumes. Before leaving, the Queen unveiled a commemorative plaque. This afternoon, the Queen and Prince Philip were visiting Runcorn, Widnes and Warrington.

Greek 'quake

Athens observatory today registered an earth tremor in central Greece. Police said no casualties or damage had been reported.



Flowers... flowers... flowers... the Queen was presented with so many flowers after she left Chester Cathedral that she had to pick up some which fell to the ground.



The Queen and Duke greet the crowds in Chester.

1,200 at Fords laid off

More than 1,200 men at Ford's Halewood factory were sent home to-day after a row involving just a handful of men escalated.

Car production was still continuing, but if the dispute goes on next week, it could lead to more lay-offs. The problem started when 40 men, who work in the discing booths, walked out over a manning dispute. The men were joined to-day by 200 colleagues.

STOP PRESS

STOCKS LATEST: Further decline in sterling stemming from removal of exchange controls, weighed heavily on Government bonds, with losses up to 75 p.p. Ind. down 6.1 at 436.6.

MAN CLEARED: Vincent McNamee, 39, no fixed address, cleared at Liverpool Crown Court of murdering Robert Peter Dixon, who was knifed and found in pool of blood outside Flat 4 at Eastwistle Heights, Toxteth. Prosecution offered no further evidence.

ARMED RAID: Two shots fired as six-man gang armed with shotgun and a pistol snatched £35,000 from security van outside Midland Bank branch in Southwark, South-East London. No one injured.

TV RATINGS: Only Coronation Street made gains in B.B.C. domination of TV ratings when ITV came back on after discontinuing its joint seventh place in Lancashire Top ten, but did not figure in national ratings where B.B.C. programme made lean sweep.

FLIGHTS HIT: British Airways flights from Manchester halted by demand for dispute involving dispatchers working on new dispute strike in London.

RACING SANDOWN 3.00—Apollito, 1. Rushmore 2. Mister Bonin 3. 0-4, 121, 10-1. Salad fav. NEWMARKET 3.45—Interference. Dame Juliette 2. 11-8 fav. 121, 16-1.

POLICE BREAK HUGE ARMS LINK TO IRA

An arms trail to the I.R.A. has been cut after a swoop on a ship in Dublin. It was confirmed to-day.

by a Special Correspondent
 A lightning police raid on a cargo vessel uncovered a large consignment of firearms and ammunition. One theory being investigated is that the con-

tainer loaded with the arms might have been shipped from the United States through either Liverpool or Holyhead. The haul, consisted of 156 weapons, mainly

ArmaLite rifles, some revolvers and a number of M60 machine guns. Up to 20,000 rounds of ammunition were also recovered. The arms cache was found yesterday and a hush-hush surveillance operation was carried out

throughout the day by members of the Special Branch and the elite Anti Terrorist Squad. Police refused to officially confirm the find, but Special Branch sources in Dublin said the arms were destined for the Provisional I.R.A.

The swoop was thought to have been made after a tip-off that arms were hidden in ordinary cargo.

The arms were understood to have arrived in Dublin from the Continent on Wednesday night, according to one source. But another claimed the consignment is believed to have come from the United States.

The find is regarded as a major breakthrough by the Special Branch in its attempt to uncover the gun trail to the I.R.A. from the United States, Europe and the Middle East.

Two months ago, the branch made another huge arms find in a disused house in Dublin and in recent swoops has discovered internal I.R.A. documents which incriminated a number of key members of the terrorist organisation.

DIGEST

New move on city's derelict sites

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Mr. Michael Heseltine to-day announced the setting up of a new working party to spearhead the development of nearly 1,000 acres of derelict land in Liverpool's inner areas.

The news followed a meeting of the Liverpool Inner City Partnership Committee, chaired by the Minister.

A register listing the derelict sites ripe for development has been drawn up and Mr. Heseltine said local authorities and his own department would be working together to see what could be done to bring the sites into productive use.

BABY SNATCHED FROM COT
 A TWO-DAYS-OLD girl was snatched from her cot in the maternity wing of a London hospital early to-day. Police are searching for a woman who was seen wandering in the North Middlesex Hospital, Edmonston, shortly before the baby was taken from a room on the fourth floor.

SWOOP ON CORAL CLUBS
 MORE than 20 people were being interviewed by police to-day after raids on four London casinos. The raids, by more than 450 police and Gaming Board officials, were on clubs owned by the Coral Leisure Group. It is understood that some casino directors' homes were also visited by police. Police are investigating allegations of thefts, conspiracy to steal, and Gaming Board offences.

TANKERS COLLIDE
 SPECIALLY-TRAINED firefighters battled to-day to bring a burning tanker, the Minima, under control after a collision in the Gulf of Mexico killed at least four sailors and left 31 missing. The other ship, the Burnah Agate, was also burning fiercely. And a Norwegian iron ore carrier, the Berge Vanga, is missing off South Africa to-day after its owners said they had last made radio contact on Monday.

WEATHER FORECAST
 MERRYSIDE: Cloudy, with some light rain. Temperatures near normal, rising to 11C. Winds light to moderate south-westerly. Outlook: Mostly cloudy with rain at times. Some sunny intervals on Sunday with blustery showers.

LIVERPOOL BAY: Winds westerly, force four. Gale warning force eight for open sea. Weather: Fair. Visibility: Good. Sea state: Slight.

HIGH WATER: 21.45, 8.5 metres. To-morrow: 16.12, 9.5 metres; 22.31, 9.8 metres.

LIGHTING UP: 17.09 to 06.41.
NOON MERRYSIDE temperature recorded at Bidston Observatory today: 11.8C (53.2F). Yesterday: 18.8C (65.8F).

Blind widow, 92, robbed of life savings

By BRIAN ROBERTS (Crime Reporter)

THIEVES have left a 92-year-old blind widow heartbroken after stealing her life savings, and this afternoon she was being comforted by friends as police hunted the raiders.

The widow, who is bed-ridden, had kept the cash in a tin box at her bootle home and was saving for funeral expenses. She had left her front door open for daily visitors to get in to see her, when the thieves struck.

She lay helplessly in bed as she heard the intruders ransacking her rooms. The widow, who is not being named by the police, called out to ask who was there and shouted for help... but nobody could hear her cries.

50 hampers to be won

Christmas is coming... and so are the Echo's Christmas hamper competitions. The first of our now famous competitions starts next week when we have fifty hampers full of festive fare to be won. It's the competition with a double bonus. Fifty local winners each week and you will be helping Merseyside's elderly people and children in need to enjoy Christmas just that little bit more.

The first contest begins in the Echo on Monday. Don't miss it... you could be helping yourself and others.

Bianca ends her marriage to Mick

Bianca Jagger ended her eight-year marriage to Rolling Stone Mick in an 18-minute undefended divorce hearing in London to-day. High Court Family Division judge granted Nicaraguan-born Bianca, aged 32, a decree nisi because of Mick's admitted adultery with American model Jerri Hall, aged 26. By consent, the divorce is to be made absolute in six weeks, instead of the normal three months. Mick Jagger—who was not in court—did not proceed with his cross-petition alleging "unreasonable conduct," which was dismissed. By consent, she was granted care and control of their daughter, Jade, aged eight, with Mick being allowed to have reasonable access.

Mutilated quarry body identified

Police are today "99.9 per cent certain" that the handless corpse found in a flooded quarry in North-east England, near Chorley, 19 days ago, is that of Christopher Martin Johnston, 35, a New Zealand businessman dealing in drugs. One theory is that the dead man lost a power struggle at the top of an international drugs smuggling ring based in Glasgow and was killed by an international "hit man" while visiting friends and business contacts in North-east England. And homicide squad detectives from Australia are on their way to Britain to confirm the victim as the "Kivul connection" in the drugs rings and to interview a middle-aged man held at Heathrow on Tuesday.

Page Three: The drug ring link.

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