

"A TRIP TO EUROPE"

Eleventh article in the series by Miss Margaret Laundry.

Edinburgh

We arrived in Edinburgh June 26th the day after Queen Elizabeth received the Scottish "Honours", the Crown Jewels of Scotland.

The kilt is not often seen on Edinburgh streets except worn by members of the armed forces, but during this week most anyone that owned a kilt had it on. The lasses looked very smart but Kath and I went wild over the lads. That jaunty swing of the kilt above those brawny legs was enough to make any gals heart skip a beat.

The following day the Queen attended a service at the Edinburgh Castle, perched high on "the Rock" in the centre of the city overlooking Princess Street, where she received the keys to the Castle. Hundreds of people lined the streets to see the parade and Elizabeth and Philip pass by in their carriage. Kath and I for a change were in the very front row and soon we heard the cheers of the crowds as the coach approached. Kath got her camera set and, as the carriage drew opposite us right in the middle of Kath's view finder, the Queen turned and smiled directly at us. Kath was so surprised that she dropped her camera and looked up to see if it were really happening. Of course in a matter of seconds the carriage was past - and no picture!

The Usher Hall presented during that week "The Masque of Edinburgh" depicting the life on and around the Castle from the time it was first built by the Romans, weaving the tales of King Robert and Bruce, James IV Mary Queen of Scots and Bonnie Prince Charlie into a very fascinating plot. One of the stories was that of Mrs. Ogilvie and Jenny who spirited "the honours" out of the castle right under the noses of Cromwells Round-heads, and hiding them so well that it was not until by chance many years later Sir Walter Scott discovered them in a chest under a chapel altar at Urquhart Castle on Loch Ness in the Western highlands.

One night after a Royal command performance of "the Masque", the Queen in coronet evening dress, and mink cape rode out to Holyrood Park to complete a full days sporting events by lighting a torch which was carried by a runner to Arthur's Seat (a rock on a high mound overlooking the Park) where a large bonfire was lit, clearly visible for miles around. We spent the evening watching a close game of basketball between the American GI's stationed in the vicinity and
(cont. on next col.)

A TRIP TO EUROPE (cont.)

the Edinburgh lads, then moved on to see some bicycle racing, horses riding an obstacle course, gymnastic displays, and most interesting of all the highland dancing contest of youngsters 8-10 years, resplendent in their lace trimmed shirts, velvet jackets "Kilts and aw'".

Edinburgh's Cathedral, St. Giles is renowned for its Thistle Chapel used exclusively by the Knights of the Thistle corresponding to the Order of the Garter in England. There are 16 Knights belonging to the Order including the Queen, Queen Mother and Philip as well as other members of the Royal family. Around the walls stand the very ornately carved, high backed, oak pews of the Knights. Acorns, oak trees, vines, thistles, roses, animals and angels are all worked into the intricate patterning of the pews. The guide pointed out one wee angel who was playing the bagpipes - which proves emphasized he, "that Scotsmen really do go to Heaven". The Chapel was built in 1911 which impressed us with the fact that relatively modern work can compare very favourably with that of ancient craftsmen.

One evening we went down to the East Princes Street Gardens to see a chimpanzees tea party. The zoo keepers brought over 4 chimps dressed in plaid suits and pill box hats and sat them around a table set with dishes, with bananas, cakes and tea. The warden poured and the chimps ate and drank to their hearts content much to the delight of the children (and adults) The keepers also brought along half a dozen penguins who waddled around the inner circle of the crowd keeping at a discreet distance from the bouncing children. The rest of the evening we were entertained by Scottish pipe bands and at sundown by the precision Plymouth Marine Band in white helmets, belt and gloves with navy uniforms - the best band bar none that I have ever seen.

Our stay in Edinburgh was even more enjoyable because we were guests in the "wee hoose" of two lovely Scottish ladies. They fed us shortbread, crumpets and strawberry jam, Edinburgh Rock and large pots of tea in front of the fire. One thing that we didn't have which I always considered a typical Scottish dish, was porridge!

o-0-o

FOR SALE

1950 Chrysler cheap. New radio, tire also new heater. Apply Tony Fedun.