

Prince Charles, 15 Today, Faces Career Examination



PORTRAITS ON SHOW—These colored chalk portraits of Prince Charles and Princess Anne, done in 1957 by Alfred Kingsley Lawrence, will be on show at a new "Royal Children" exhibition opening in Buckingham Palace in London. (UPI)

By ROBERT MUSEL
LONDON (UPI) — Prince Charles celebrates his 15th birthday today (Nov. 14) with royal circles beginning to speculate about a future for him that may involve a decision of historic importance.

The talk — it is only that at the moment — concerns the possibility his mother, Queen Elizabeth, may some day abdicate in his behalf so that he may rule in the full vigor of manhood and not have to wait until he is an old man as did his great-grandfather, King Edward VII.

The young heir to the throne is too busy "swotting" — the schoolboy word for studying hard — for the most critical examination of his career at Gordonstoun School in Scotland to worry about dynastic gossip.

Follows These Lines
This, perhaps, is just as well for it may never come to pass. Yet the speculation does exist and at this stage it goes something like this:

The womentalk of the Windsors are long-lived and Queen Elizabeth is only 37. In the ordinary course of events Prince Charles would not become King Charles III until he is quite elderly.

The choice, then, is to prepare Charles for the crown when he is, say, 30 years old or to risk a repetition of the case of King Edward VII who was a tired 60 when his mother Queen Victoria died in 1901 at the age of 81. He outlived her less than eight years.

There is no precedent in the ancient history of the monarchy for an abdication such as would be required of Queen Elizabeth if the speculation ever progresses to reality.

Could Advise Son
But those who have heard it concede there is at least a measure of logic involved. Queen Elizabeth would be 52, still young enough to continue many royal duties and to act as an invaluable adviser to her son from her own experience.

She would, however, be spared the arduous traveling around the Commonwealth and the world which have exhausted her in the past and would be even more likely to do so in the future.

And Charles, by that time, presumably would have an equally young and energetic queen at his side.

Charles, however, will be thinking of more immediate

matters for this birthday. At his age — 15 — Gordonstoun gives its pupils a "future career" examination which is intended to determine where their aptitudes lie.

Like any other student Charles will head apprehensively home at Christmas in the knowledge his parents will have in their hands an analysis of his talents from the headmaster.

Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh will use this report in a discussion with their son on his next schooling—Dartmouth Royal Naval College for a career in the navy or Sandhurst Military College as preparation for the Grenadier Guards.

The sailor Duke and his son both prefer the navy but the entrance requirements are very high and Charles, though he is a good student, is not a brilliant one. Whatever service is chosen he will start training in about a year.

Serious Boy
On the threshold of his 16th year Charles — who is Duke of Cornwall, Duke of Rothesay, Earl of Carrick, Lord of the

Isles and Great Steward of Scotland as well as Prince of Wales — is a quiet, serious boy more like his mother than his father in looks and character.

He has her blue eyes and thick brown hair and he is, like the Queen, determined and tenacious rather than inspirational. He is a good swimmer and enjoys go-kart racing but he does not gather the same excitement his father does from outdoor life. He is only a mediocre horseman and shot and prefers photographing wild life to shooting it.

Sometime after he is 16 Charles will be the center of the colorful ceremony of investiture as Prince of Wales amid the ruins of ancient Caernarvon Castle from whose battlements the Queen will present him to the people of Wales.

This will be like a small-scale coronation. The Prince will wear velvet and ermine robes over court dress with silk knee breeches and the Queen, assisted by bishops and before a great gathering of Welsh dignitaries in traditional attire, will "crown" him with a cap of

cloth-of-gold. The ceremony will be staged by the constable of Caernarvon Castle who will wear a grey silk

costume with a gilt circlet on his head and flourish a drawn sword. The constable is Lord Snow-

don, the former photographer Anthony Armstrong-Jones, who is married to Princess Margaret.



AQUARIUM GETS CRAB — A giant crab measuring nearly four feet in diameter and weighing 15 pounds is one of four presented to the Vancouver, B. C., Aquarium by the Wakefield Fisheries of Alaska. Nancy Kennett inspects the huge crustacean. (UPI)

Tail-Waving Comet Raises Questions On Solar Activity

NEW YORK (UPI)—A comet with a wagging tail has scientists guessing about one of the most significant but little known features of the solar system — the solar wind, it was reported today.

The comet is called Burnham 1960 II which was first sighted in 1959. But it was not until this year that Daniel Malaise, formerly of the Astrophysical Institute of the University of Liege, Belgium, observed that the comet "wagged" its tail.

Malaise reported today in the *Astronomical Journal* that the tail, which is about 1,800,000 miles long, swings back and forth through an arc of 15 degrees once every four days during its orbit.

Secondary Tails
Malaise, who is now with the

Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory and the Harvard College Observatory in Cambridge, Mass., also found that the comet's tail divides into several secondary tails which then merge back into a single tail during the four-day cycle.

It was the first time that a periodic wagging motion had been seen in a comet's tail.

Malaise said this behavior has raised several questions about solar activity, not the least of which is the solar wind — a gas cloud consisting of atom fragments which flood out in all directions from the surface of the sun. It is this wind that is believed to create the tails of comets.

The atom fragments strike the surface of the comet's hard core and brush molecular frag-

ments and gasses from it and carry them away from the comet, scientists believe. This is the explanation for why comet tails always point away from the sun.

Malaise said "turbulences in the solar wind — similar to wind turbulences here on earth — possibly could be the answer to the tail wagging."

Difficult To Imagine
But "it is difficult to imagine why the solar wind velocity would sweep back and forth with a periodicity of four days which cannot be correlated with anything in the solar system," Malaise said.

He is now trying to determine whether the tails of other comets also make similar motions.

Burnham 1960 II was discovered by Dr. Robert Burnham of the Lowell Observatory at Flagstaff, Ariz., in 1959. It is designated 1960 II because it was the first comet observed to pass that point closest in its orbit to the sun in 1960.

Its head is 125,000 miles in diameter, considered medium-sized, and it has a relatively short tail, 1,180,000 miles long.

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