

Queen Elizabeth Becomes a Princess of B.C. Indians but Decides Against Ice Cream



Mrs. Nels Wilson (Left) Offered Fistful of Ice Cream to the Queen at Nanaimo
She received smile of thanks. Under totem, Her Majesty inspected handicrafts.

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Victoria, B.C., July 16 — Queen Elizabeth consented to become an Indian princess when representatives of 38 tribes welcomed her to a mock Indian village at Nanaimo this morning.

More than 3,000 children and adults watched the ceremony from a sunbaked area in Exhibition Park.

To her many illustrious titles, the Queen now adds Ar-Oh-Muthl, meaning "Respected by All, Mother of All People." She became a princess of the Salish nation which includes 15 tribes of West Coast Indians.

Chief Seawid conducted the traditional ceremony. Following an ancient pattern, Indians in ornate regalia of chicken feather finches, blankets and carved headdresses which covered their faces, burst at a drumbeat signal from the doorway of a hut of cedar slabs. To the chant of women and the drums the dancers did their shuffling movements at close range to the Queen and Prince Philip.

Indian arts and crafts handed down from generation to generation were demonstrated to the Royal party by Nanaimo Indians who illustrated the meaning of their town's name, "Big Strong Tribe."

The Queen, in a cool white silk dress with black squares and a black crushed belt, worn with the most fetching hat of

her four, strolled with Prince Philip around the village after welcoming ceremonies.

Beaming Mrs. Nels Wilson, with a bright blanket pinned across her shoulders, scooped up a handful of Indian ice cream from a yellow plastic pail and offered it to the Queen. Fingers had dipped into the pail earlier for appreciative licks.

The Queen beamed back at Mrs. Wilson but did not dip. Mrs. Wilson had worked up the creamy brew with her fist from green soup berries, sugar and water.

The Royal party stopped beside an alderwood log fire over which hung chunks of salmon on cleft sticks in the original barbecue fashion. In her beige Indian dress with wool fringe, Mrs. Douglas White explained to Prince Philip the technique of drying fish in the sun.

Edward Brown stood beside the 51-foot cedar log out of which he planned to hew by hand axe a war canoe. He expertly chipped as the Queen walked past.

Mungo Martin, an Indian chief famed on the West Coast for his wood carvings, worked at a log, which was slowly emerging under his skill as a thunderbird. Chief Martin in 1958 went to England to present a 100-foot totem to Queen Elizabeth for Windsor Castle.

The chief reminded Queen Elizabeth that in her absence he had been presented to the Queen Mother. He demonstrated for Queen Elizabeth his carving

technique with primitive adze and stone mallet, a skill he has passed to his helper, Henry Hunt, husband of his granddaughter.

Indians crowding around the Queen as she examined their exhibits reciprocated her interest. Some danced, some chanted and each proudly recounted afterward the comments made to them by the Royal pair.