

The button-pressing moment



THE QUEEN presses the button to start the oil flow from Forties Field during the ceremony in the control room at BP's Dyce base yesterday. Also in the picture are Sir Eric Drake, chairman of BP (left) and Mr Colin Smith, production supervisor (right).

Big day for students

TWO Aberdeen catering students, Suzanne Leman (19) and Donald Brooker (21), had a very special role at Dyce yesterday when they were chosen from among their classmates to serve wine at the VIP lunch attended by the Queen.

Robert Gordon's Institute of Technology School of Hotel and Institutional Management provided 49 students to help the Edinburgh caterers. The other students served the other guests and staff at a different lunch.

Mr Ernest Morissetti, managing director of Prestonfield House Hotel, Ltd., Edinburgh, said later: "We couldn't have managed without them. But I think they would gain valuable experience."

Donald, who comes from Gord, Levenwick, Shetland, and stays at 49 Anderson Drive, Aberdeen, certainly felt he had learnt a lot from this the largest function he had worked at. Educated at Aberlour House and Gordonstoun, he is a second-year student.

Suzanne, who is in her third year, comes from Melkie, Kinord, Dinnit, and is a former pupil of Aboyne Academy. She stays at 21 Richmond Street, Aberdeen.

PICTURES by ROBERT BRUCE, RON CASTLE and BOB DARLING



SUZANNE LEMAN and Donald Brooker after yesterday's VIP luncheon.

THE Queen is greeted by her Ministers at BP's Dyce headquarters yesterday. Left to right are Scottish Secretary Mr William Ross, Energy Secretary Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn, Foreign Secretary Mr James Callaghan and Prime Minister Mr Harold Wilson.

The Queen's Ministers



VIP guests arrive by train and plane

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Department of Energy spokesman said later the figure was £200,000,000,000.

The Queen, in a sea-green double-breasted coat, matching corsetry soft hat trimmed with feathers and black accessories, had arrived at Aberdeen Station with the Duke of Edinburgh and Prince Andrew, their second son.

Aberdeen District Council workmen were out early in the morning to ensure that the station was gaily bedecked with flags and flowers for the arrival of the Royal train.

The Royal visitors were met by Lord Provost Robert S. Lennox and the Lady Provost; Mr J. F. Watt, chief executive of Aberdeen District Council; Mr D. J. Cobbett, general manager, British Rail, Scotland; Chief Constable Alexander Morrison, and Mr R. A. MacKenzie, Aberdeen area manager, British Rail.

More than 300 people stood in the station concourse and hundreds more lined the Royal route to Dyce, where the Royal party were welcomed by BP chairman Sir Eric Drake.

Earlier, Mr Wilson and Energy Secretary Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn had arrived half an hour late on a special overnight sleeper from London. The train, carrying about 80 guests, had to be diverted via Carlisle after the East Coast line was blocked by a toppled crane.

Scottish Secretary Mr William Ross had arrived with 500 officials and guests on a special BP VIP train. They were taken to Dyce in a fleet of buses and cars.

After being greeted by Mr Wilson and the other Ministers, the Royal party, with the Premier and Mr Callaghan, were whisked through to BP's open-plan office to meet staff who had contributed to the fruition of the Forties concept. And the general impres-

sion of those introduced to the Royal party was that the Queen, Duke and Prince Andrew were well-informed about exploration in the stormy North Sea.

Among those presented to the Queen were Dr Colin Jones, an international expert on offshore medicine for BP, permanently based in Aberdeen; Dr Stuart Reid, district manager of Forties; BP petroleum development manager Mr Matt Linning, and Mr Linning's secretary, Mrs Liz Coffey.

The presentations were over the spectrum of oil industry employment — from top executive to the men manning the rigs.

Sea Quest crane driver Mr Clive Brookes (34), Mansfield, Notts, was asked by Prince Andrew if his job was dangerous — he had to agree. "The Prince was very conversant with what was going on," he said.

Mr William McPhillips, Beauly Crescent, Kirktown, Dundee, told the Queen he was a former roustabout now

a deckhand, and driller Mr Mike Donald (27), 23 Lawsondale Drive, Westhill, near Aberdeen, said the Queen asked how much time he had off. "The chairman explained that I pulled the pipe out and changed the drill bit," he said.

Mrs Coffey told the Queen that her job was a most interesting one because it involved so many different kinds of people.

After leaving the office, the Queen and her party walked to the public enclosure to speak with people who had come to see her.

She delighted the 400-strong crowd by going on a walk-about, despite a biting wind.

Dyce Primary School had a contingent of about 200 from their 800 pupils — a ballot had been organised to choose who should attend.

Jill Forsyth (9), 12 Sluie Drive, and Linda Stewart (9), 18 Gramplan Gardens, both Dyce, were still shaking with excitement last night. The

Queen stopped and talked to them, asking how they had got to the BP HQ and if they had been given time off school.

Before the Queen's arrival, the crowd seated in the circus-tent-like marquee were entertained by Gramplan Police Band and the Gordon Highlanders' Regimental Band, sent home early from Singapore specially for the occasion.

To the left of the Gordons band, who took their places in a bandstand for their short concert, sat the VIP guests.

They included Liberal Leader Mr Jeremy Thorpe, who was obviously cold and put his coat back on towards the end of the proceedings; North Aberdeen M.P. Mr Robert Hughes; South Aberdeen M.P. Mr John Sproat; former Scottish Secretary Lord Campbell of Crook; SNP chairman Mr William Wolfe and Mr Reginald Maudling, the Tory Shadow Foreign Secretary.

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