

Your Seat At The Coronation



On these 14 pages, Pageant puts you in a front
(condensed to 11 pages)

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June Second Is The Day

THE CORONATION of Elizabeth II of England will be divided into three acts. The first act is the royal procession from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey. The second is the actual Coronation ceremony in the Abbey. The third is the parade through the streets of London back to Buckingham Palace. About 7,600 peers, politicians and privileged persons will be fitted into Westminster for the grand climax in Act II—but the whole world is invited to attend Acts I and III. It will be a capacity audience. All available seating space in the stands, in doorways and windows, on rooftops, was spoken for many months ago. Even standing room in the streets will be hard to find. It will be impossible for any one member of the audience to see as much of the actual proceedings as we see through the eye of the camera on this and the following pages.



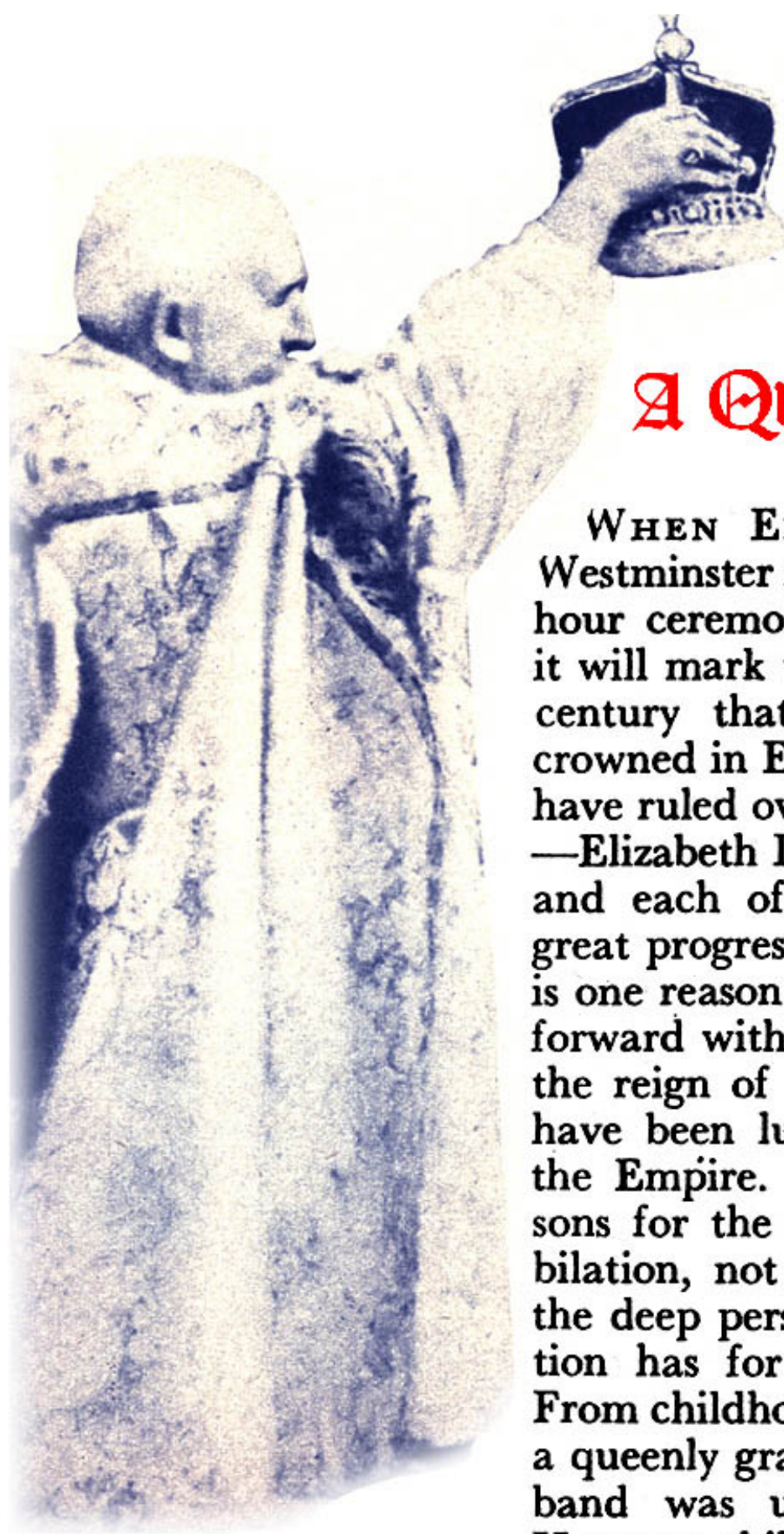
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Act I: State Coach with Elizabeth and Philip leaves palace on way to Westminster Abbey

Act II: The altar of Westminster, with everything in readiness for the Coronation. Westminster has been the scene of every Coronation since that of William the Conqueror in 1066. The Coronation Chair (right) has been used since year 1297





A Queen Is Crowned

WHEN ELIZABETH arrives at Westminster for the two-and-a-half-hour ceremony of the Coronation, it will mark the first time in half a century that a Queen has been crowned in England. Three Queens have ruled over Albion in 800 years—Elizabeth I, Anne and Victoria—and each of their reigns brought great progress and prosperity. That is one reason why her subjects look forward with such glowing hope to the reign of Elizabeth II. Queens have been lucky for England and the Empire. There are other reasons for the national mood of jubilation, not the least of which is the deep personal affection the nation has for this 27-year-old girl. From childhood she has moved with a queenly grace. Her choice of husband was universally applauded. Her two children are being reared simply and strictly. Most of all, perhaps, she is loved for the quality of inner happiness she seems to possess—that alert face of hers constantly smiling over a nation experiencing some of its hardest times.



The Setting

AT THE CEREMONY in the Abbey, the seating arrangements will be the same as they were at the Coronation (above) of Elizabeth's father, George VI. The spectators will consist of 1,200 members of the peerage, all the members of Parliament and their wives, the highest dignitaries of the church and the heads of the armed services. There will also be a select group of leaders in science and industry from all over the Commonwealth, as well as some 250 specially invited foreign guests. All costumes worn at the Coronation are minutely prescribed by law, and no liberties are allowed. Dukes and Barons alike know to the inch the length of their cloaks, the exact color of velvet they must wear, the precise construction of the swords and crowns and coronets they must carry.

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Only the Queen's robe is subject to change. Its exact appearance will be a secret until Elizabeth appears in public on June 2, but advance reports indicate that her train will have 500 ermine skins, will be almost 25 feet long. Her mother's train (left) measured about half that length



The late Queen Mary



Queen Elizabeth



Duke of Norfolk

Faces To Look For

MISSING from the ceremony will be Queen Mary, whose death last March deprived the procession of a proud and beloved face.

In an honored position in the Coronation parade, of course, you will recognize the young Queen's mother, Queen Elizabeth. The Duke of Norfolk is the man who has shouldered the monumental burden

of supervising the entire Coronation. Marina, Duchess of Kent, widow of that uncle of Elizabeth's who was killed in the war, is often called the most beautiful member of royalty in the world. Princess Margaret Rose is Elizabeth's only sister and her closest friend. Philip, Elizabeth's Prince Consort, will be at her side throughout the ceremonies.

Duchess of Kent



Princess Margaret Rose



The Prince Consort



The last Queen to rule in England with a Prince Consort was Elizabeth's great-great-grandmother, Victoria. Her husband was a German, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg, a methodical, scholarly man who for 20 years was the Queen's principal adviser on affairs of state. Their descendants became part of every ruling family in Europe, and both Philip and Elizabeth are actually directly descended from Victoria and Albert.



Philip, the new Prince Consort, is a distant cousin of Elizabeth's. Through his veins flows the bluest blood of Greece, Germany, England. The English are immensely fond of him—for his affability, his good looks, his fine war record, his athletic prowess, his deep family devotion.



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The Queen's Horses

IN THE TOWER of London is a circular room which is guarded by the Tower's celebrated Yeomen Warders. The object of their vigil is one of the greatest collections of precious relics in the world—the British crown jewels. Many of the pieces rest in the Tower room, beneath glass cases, behind iron bars—forever. But come Coronation Day some pieces in the collection will be removed, carried to West-

minster with appropriate pageantry, to become star performers in the great play. Such a relic is the crown of St. Edward the Confessor (opposite page). Such too are the objects shown below it, each of which has been used at British coronations for hundreds of years. The day after Coronation Day these royal accoutrements will be back in the Tower, where they can be seen by tourists any day of the week—behind bars.

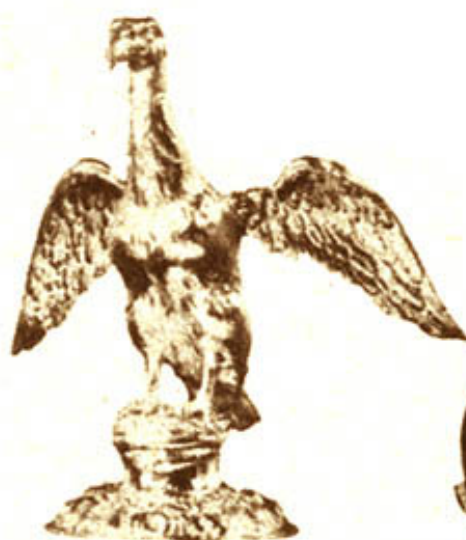
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The Queen's Gems



The Crown of St. Edward the Confessor, first crown placed on the Queen's head. It is quickly removed (weighs 7 pounds), replaced by 39-ounce Imperial Crown

Three of the crown jewels. Holy oil is poured from the beak of the golden eagle into the anointing spoon (below). The Monarch is anointed with this spoon. The royal sceptre (far right) contains the Great Star of Africa, the world's largest diamond



The End . . . ?

IS IT ALL OVER when the parade is finished, when the captains and the kings have departed and the last spectator homeward plods his weary way? Does the Coronation celebration end on Coronation Day?

Not by a long shot. This is a Coronation *year*. For months and months the English have been planning a nationwide series of festivals, carnivals, fairs, shows and assorted exhibitions to entertain themselves as well as their millions of guests from the four corners of the earth in this year of years. Horse shows, dog shows, bird shows, horticultural shows and art shows, concerts, music, theater and sporting events of every shape and size are scheduled for every nook and cranny of the tight little isle. Whatever your fancy—whether it be cathedral music or livestock—you will find celebrations in honor of same somewhere in England *some* time this year.

In a sense, Coronation Day is only the beginning of England's fervent tributes to its new Queen. There are still six months of feasting and revelry to go. Remember—this is no ordinary Coronation year. For the fourth time in eight centuries, a Queen of the British Empire is being crowned.

