

game. When we got home we went onto the garden where, before we left, a thrush was sitting on eggs and now there are young chicks which open their mouths as soon as one approaches the nest, always hungry.

The garden looks lovely and the gardener has been busy while we have been away and so there are many flowers, which have come out. Mary's sister, who lives next door, made us a meat pie and a pudding and had the fires going in the house, which was a very warm welcome. So nice to be home again after being on a trip. Back to home comforts, for no matter how comfortable are the hotels etc. they are never the same as home. Tomorrow we all go into Stratford to see the King, George VI, and the Queen. Geoff and I being South Africans have been lucky in getting tickets to 'Henry VIII'. I do wish we could all have gone.

Geoff continues: I have mentioned this earlier but no harm in giving more details as Lorna forgot to mention this in her diary. When we had lunch at Alston we saw a figurine or small statue in bronze of a fisherman casting his net. It was most attractive so later Lorna wrote to the proprietor offering to buy it. It apparently belonged to the Shell Company who eventually agreed to sell it at a very moderate figure. So they railed it to us at Salford where we had it very well packed for the homeward trip. It now stands on the writing desk in the entrance hall and looks attractive. It stands about 24 inches high and the man stooping slightly with the net over his arm just ready to cast as you probably have often seen them casting for bait. It is a very fine piece of work on which Lorna wanted a small lamp but the electrician has not come up to scratch.

22/4/50. I will carry on for a while but Lorna will come in when she describes the Queen's outfit etc. You can imagine what excitement there was on the morning of the 20th when the King and Queen arrived accompanied by Margaret to visit Stratford. We went into the town at about 11am. The Royal Train having arrived earlier and they were then being shown places of interest in the town and there are many in this old town of the Bard. Everywhere were flags and bunting flying and the whole town looked in real festive mood. We took up a position very near the theatre and here the crowd was standing two deep but by the time the Royal Party came by on their way to lunch at the theatre the crowd stood four deep and we were in the back row but being tall were able to see fairly well. I cannot understand why people will always push forward and have the audacity to do so in front of people who were there first. As the Royal party drove by I noticed that the Queen sat upright and waved while the King seemed to be leaning forward as though to ease pain which he probably was suffering as if I remember rightly he a few years later had a lung operation. To put it mildly he did not seem his usual self, full of beans, as he used to be when singing at his boy's outings 'Under the spreading chestnut tree'.

Now lets see what Lorna has to say about the queen's dress etc.

Quoting from Lorna's diary:

The queen wearing a soft powder blue frock, a band about 10" wide on each sleeve and a felt toque trimmed with close fitting feathers rather to the one side and looked as beautiful as she always does. Her grace and charm are so much a part of her make up. The King wore a grey tweed coat, he is going grey, not white, more pepper and salt but it looks well. Little Margaret, to me, wears atrocious clothes, a bonnet, most unbecoming with two points; a full grey skirted frock, with a leather belt. I don't think she has much dress sense, though I have read that she is considered well dressed and goes to the modisles of the Duchess of Kent.

I mentioned that we procured two standing tickets at 2/6d each. Mary and Edith insisted that we go but I felt a meanie when they had made all the effort to get the tickets. We entered the theatre under the eyes of all the bystanders, they knew that we were holders of standing tickets. It was fun mingling with the smartly clad figures in the foyer but not fun when we took our standing positions. The rails at the back upon which one leans had all been taken so we leant against the back wall. I think too many standing tickets had been issued. We were tired before the show started from the long morning standing so we sat on the floor. When the Royal Party entered, they sat in the dress circle, above so

That we did not even/