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A Royal Welcome

A caring company

I joined Carreras in January 1960, shortly before the visit of the Duke of Edinburgh. We were all given a copy of the special souvenir publication. I also enclose a picture taken on a lunch break at Basildon, seated around the Black Cat. We were all 'catchers' in the Making Department. Sadly four of the girls are no longer with us but I'm in constant touch with the others. I am now aged 81. We seven were the last to remain on day work. We were employed on that basis initially and this contract was honoured by the company even though for years the whole firm was on shift work. This sort of caring for the employee is unheard of these days.

A wag's response

My late husband was a traffic policeman at the time and he escorted Prince Philip to the factory to open the Making Department. The Duke spoke to some of the workers and said: 'This is a new town. I understand that half the population are in prams!' Someone in the crowd replied: 'Yes, mate, and the other half are in debt!'

Word from Australia

Many thanks for my birthday card which arrived on my 91st birthday in June, and also for the interesting and colourful new magazine.

My husband worked for Outdoor Publicity at the Leeds depot and I remember him going to Basildon on the occasion of the Duke's visit.

I also noted the piece about dancing being good for your health. I quite agree – my husband and I met at a ballroom and we danced for many years. When he died in 1977 I moved to Australia to be close to my family who had already emigrated.

By the way, what happened to the two beautiful cats that graced the entrance to the Arcadia works?