

AM-QUEEN-VISIT; PRECEDE; 0538

PRECEDE VANCOUVER 203 (ROYAL COUPLE ARRIVES IN VICTORIA)

SEE LASERPHOTOS UCR 1; 4

ESPY AP-REUTS

By DAPHNE BRANHAM

VICTORIA (CP) - QUEEN BEATRIX AND PRINCE CLAUS OF THE NETHERLANDS WERE GREETED MONDAY BY SUNSHINE AND THE SOUND OF DUTCH CARILLON BELLS WHEN THEY FLEW INTO THE INNER HARBOR OF THIS BRITISH COLUMBIA CAPITAL.

ABOUT 400 PEOPLE WAITED FOR THE ROYAL VISITORS ON THE LAWS OF THE LEGISLATIVE BUILDINGS WHICH OVERLOOK THE HARBOR.

HERMAN BERGINK, THE DUTCH-BORN PROVINCIAL CARILLONEUR, DESCRIBED THE VISIT AS ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING DAYS OF HIS LIFE ALTHOUGH HE HAD PLAYED FOR ROYALTY BEFORE, INCLUDING QUEEN BEATRIX'S GRANDMOTHER, QUEEN WILHEMINA AND HER SISTER, PRINCESS MARGRIET.

"THIS IS A VERY GREAT MOMENT TODAY," BERGINK SAID MONDAY MORNING AFTER CLIMBING THE 85 STEPS OF THE 25-METRE TOWER AND WAS ADJUSTING THE 62 BELLS SO THEY WOULD SOUND JUST RIGHT.

PEOPLE OF DUTCH ORIGIN LIVING IN B.C. GAVE THE CARILLON TO THE PROVINCE IN 1967 TO COMMEMORATE THE CANADIAN CENTENNIAL. QUEEN BEATRIX'S MOTHER, QUEEN JULIANA, UNVEILED THE CORNERSTONE AT THE SITE IN 1967 AND BERGINK WAS HIRED AS PROVINCIAL CARILLONEUR THE FOLLOWING YEAR WHEN THE TOWER WAS COMPLETED.

PLAYED SONGS

AS BERGINK PLAYED DUTCH FOLK SONGS AND SONGS WRITTEN FOR THE CARILLON BY DUTCH ARTISTS, THE ROYAL COUPLE DROVE TO THE LEGISLATIVE BUILDINGS WHERE THEY WERE GREETED BY DUTCH-BORN PREMIER BILL VANDER ZALM AND HIS WIFE, LILLIAN.

AFTER THE OFFICIAL WELCOME, THE QUEEN MADE A BRIEF STOP AT THE NEARBY CARILLON TOWER TO MEET THE 64-YEAR-OLD BERGINK AND HIS WIFE, MARIA.

THE COUPLE THEN RETIRED TO GOVERNMENT HOUSE BEFORE THE EVENING'S BLACK TIE DINNER WITH LT.-GOV. ROBERT ROGERS, THE PREMIER AND ABOUT 150 INVITED GUESTS.

IN VANCOUVER, THE ROYAL VISITORS MET REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DUTCH-CANADIAN COMMUNITY ON THE NEXT-TO-LAST DAY OF THEIR NINE-DAY TRIP TO CANADA.

MORE THAN 400 PEOPLE, WHO HAD RECEIVED SPECIAL INVITATIONS, GATHERED INSIDE A TENT ON THE RAIN-SOAKED LAWN OUTSIDE THE MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF B.C. TO MINGLE WITH THE COUPLE.

THE VISITORS, WHO ARRIVED IN VANCOUVER BY TRAIN IN THE MORNING FROM CALGARY, WERE LED INTO THE VIA RAIL STATION BY PIPERS AND WELCOMED THERE BY ABOUT 100 WELL WISHERS, MANY HAVING MINATURE DUTCH FLAGS.

HAS WEAK SPOT

"WE HAVE A WEAK SPOT IN OUR HEARTS FOR ROYALTY," SAID RINA DALM, 61, WHO MOVED TO B.C. FROM THE NETHERLANDS IN 1951. "WE ARRIVED RIGHT AT THIS SPOT 37 YEARS AGO TO START A NEW LIFE IN CANADA."

THE QUEEN, WHO SPARKED A SMALL CONTROVERSY LAST WEEK WITH HER REMARKS ABOUT AN 1839 REPORT THAT URGED THE ASSIMILATION OF FRENCH-SPEAKING QUEBECERS, WAS MET AT THE TRAIN STATION BY VANDER ZALM, PROBABLY THE BEST KNOWN OF THE 350,000 PEOPLE OF DUTCH ORIGIN NOW LIVING IN CANADA.

VANDER ZALM SAID IT WAS A "PARTICULAR PRIVILEGE" FOR HIM TO WELCOME THE QUEEN SINCE HE LEFT HOLLAND AS A BOY "WHERE I MIGHT NEVER HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET THE QUEEN OR ROYALTY."

"I NOW GET TO WELCOME HER FIRST HAND."

TODAY, THE COUPLE IS SCHEDULED TO TOUR A MACMILLAN BLOEDEL LTD. LOGGING CAMP DIVISION AND SAWMILL NEAR CHEMAINUS ON VANCOUVER ISLAND BEFORE LEAVING IN THE AFTERNOON FOR AMSTERDAM.