

Mr. Wilkinson meets the Queen3rd April 1958

Working in his garden (now that the brighter days are here) Mr. Wilkinson has a wonderful memory of Easter 1958. He kept an appointment with the Queen to receive the Royal Maundy Money, at Westminster Abbey.

Henry Wilkinson is 76. With his wife Rosina, he lives in a basement flat in Raleigh Street, Islington. Life brings them few comforts these days, but with their dog Mickey, they manage to keep smiling. (BRING UP).

Home is where you make it, and Mrs. Wilkinson's kitchen-cum-living room is homely. In fact, the Wilkinsons are a homely couple. (BRING UP).

We asked them how long they had lived in Raleigh Street. (BRING UP).

Living on their joint Old age pensions of £4 per week, with 19/-

National Assistance - the Wilkinsons have to keep to a very careful

budget. And if a life of toil has brought them scant reward - well -

they seldom complain. (BRING UP). During our visit, we asked Mr.

Wilkinson what sort of entertainment do you both enjoy now? (BRING UP) SOUND.

Before leaving home to do some shopping, Mr. Wilkinson told us that

he plans to divide his set of 32 Silver Maundy pennies between his five

grand-children. Incidentally, the Maundy Money ceremony so intrigued

Mr. Wilkinson that he visited his public library to trace its origin.

So when he joined Mrs. Wilkinson to carry home the shopping - this is

what he told her would happen on the great day. (BRING UP).

"We shall be going in a car to the Abbey. We mustn't be late, my dear..

You know, this distribution of Royal Maundy goes back to the 12th

century - almost to William the Conqueror... It began with the

distribution of alms and at one time the Sovereign washed the old

people's feet as a sign of humility. I shall be one of 32 men and

32 women to receive the Silver Coins. (BRING UP). The Queen will come

with Prince Philip. It was the Queen's grandfather, King George V

who revived this Maundy ceremony. (BRING UP). The Queen and the Duke

carry nosegays of sweet herbs - just as the sovereign did years ago

to protect him against the plague. Yes, old dear - it will be some-

thing to remember, the day we met the Queen". (BRING UP).

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(Copy P.T.O. (come here) →)

The Wilkinsons - cont'd

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Yes, old dear - it will be something to ~~remember~~ ^{remember} - the day we met the Queen. ~~And God bless her - and bless you.~~ (BRING UP).