

ROYAL PROGRESS

All Belfast seemed to be at the welcome to Princess Margaret at the famous Harland and Wolff Shipyard. Her Royal Highness had crossed the water to launch the Royal Mail Line's new vessel. The Chairman of the Shipbuilders and the shipping line attended her on the launching platform. The ceremony went with royal precision as the Princess named the liner "AMAZON".

The handsome 20,000-tonner and two sister-ships will enter Royal Mail's South American service next year.

The Queen Mother once again saw how flowers can shed beauty on any surroundings, when she made her annual tour under the auspices of the London Gardens Society. Christchurch School, in Cosway Street, North West one, teaches the children to grow their own flowers, and it was evident they were very proud to show them to the royal visitor, especially 5-year-old Sandra Quinn. In a typical block of flats the window boxes made a wonderful show. There's something of the gardener in every one of us, and we are not to be daunted, even if we live in crowded cities. There's an old Chinese saying: if you have two pennies spend one on flowers. The Queen Mother congratulated all the people on their very pretty displays.

At the Conrad Hilton, biggest hotel in the world, the Mayor of Chicago held a banquet in honour of the Queen. All that day America's second city had set out to make its welcome at least equal to anything Her Majesty has ever experienced abroad. The banquet was an impressive climax.

Mayor Richard Daley proposed the toast to the City's royal guest. He spoke not only for all that enormous gathering but for the whole of America, when he said that the country had taken the Queen to its great heart. In reply Her Majesty said that the reception Chicago had given her underlined the close understanding between the British Commonwealth and the United States. Never would she and the Duke forget that brief but altogether wonderful visit.