

George VI

King George VI Enjoyed His Many Hobbies

(By The Associated Press)

Ranked as an expert on the works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, creator of Sherlock Holmes, the King, as Duke of York, liked to relax in an armchair before the family hearth and read detective stories. And in the absence of good mystery stories hunting and fishing books had their appeal for him.

Through the passing years, the King's fleeting hobbies mirrored those of an average man. When the building of radio sets was at the height of popularity, he fixed a work bench in his study and produced sets that found their way to the homes of friends or to hospitals.

Crossword puzzles were long his favorite way for passing a quiet hour and under the guidance of his wife he even took a turn at knitting. Outdoors, aside from sports, he found his main recreation in gardening.

In his early official life he was particularly attracted by locomotives and it has been said that if he had not been born a prince and had followed his natural bent he would have been a locomotive engineer.

He was often seen in England on the footplate of a regular train.

When he was in New Zealand, during his 1927 tour "down under" he cast himself in his favorite role as engineer.

At one halfway station, where a crowd had gathered to cheer the King's son, spectators looked for a trim, uniformed man—and instead were greeted by the coal-streaked face of the Duke of York peering out of the cab with a wave of a grimy hand clutching a ball of cotton waste.

As an amateur photographer he had his own camera and projector and recorded many incidents in the life of the royal family. Obligated by newspaper photographers to pose time and again, he relished turning the tables upon them by getting behind the camera himself.

At one of his summer camps, he lined up photographers with the remark: "You are always photographing me so now I'll photograph you." Borrowing a camera, he made them pose until he was satisfied and then repeating the formula he heard often enough from their lips, he said: "I will take just one more—in case . . ."

Art attracted him little for its own sake but he had a sharp eye for errors. On one occasion while attending an exhibition he spotted a picture of his great uncle, the Duke of Connaught, wearing the ribbon of the Order of the Garter over the wrong shoulder. At another art show he paused before a portrait of Napoleon and asked why the wrong hand was thrust in the traditional pose of "The Little Corporal" through a resplendent jacket. "The buttons are on the wrong side," he noted, too.

remembered the same he and his young Duchess England on a January morning 1927 for a six-month tour of Australia, leaving behind the cress Elizabeth then aged 6 months. Princess Elizabeth and child, Princess Anne, Aug. 15, 1950.

Serious Illness

Five months after the royal wedding on April the King and Queen welcomed the central figure ceremony of public rejoicing 25th anniversary of their. They were deeply touched by the warmth of the crowd's greeting as they drove from the Palace of St. Paul's Cathedral and by the streets packed tight with men, women and children.

The King was never a robust, physical strength in the days following the wedding of Elizabeth's wedding a silver wedding, friends that he showed increased of fatigue.

In the midst of preparing a long tour of Australia and Zealand, the world was by an announcement in 1948—that the tour was Doctors found that an ailment in the King's right preventing the blood from reaching his foot. Con was ordered.

The King cancelled later re-scheduled for reluctance, knowing how appointment, inconvenience financial loss would to people in Australia and Zealand. "There is nothing he likes less than not doing what he has promised said at the time.

The illness was due to overwork. Those close attributed it to the constant of physical and mental from which he had suffered since before the war.

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