



## THE DAY THE QUEEN CAME

AN EXCERPT FROM  
"WE ARE TAYLOR-MADE"  
BY CAROL BELL

The Royal visit of 1953-54 was a huge event in the lives of New Zealanders, and those who were living at that time can still remember what they did to mark the occasion. The Bell family had two bites at the cherry - travelling first to a family farm at Eiffelton near Ashburton to wave to the Queen as she drove up the Longbeach Rd to spend the night at the Longbeach Estate.

The occasion was marred somewhat when an old sheepdog bit Carol Bell on the face, but once the blood was staunched a dose of mercurochrome to the affected area was deemed enough to satisfy honour. 60 years later only a tooth-wide scar remains.

At Timaru, the route the royal cortege was to take was suitably decorated and school-age children assembled at Ashbury Park for the official welcome. The extended Taylor family congregated beside the railway line behind the brewery and got a special wave from the Queen who was still in the porch at the back of the train.



At Eiffelton. Left, Bill Bell with Carol Bell and Ron Molloy, Barry and Allan Weastell. Above, cousins Carol Bell, Pam Molloy, Barry Weastell, Ron Molloy.



A series of photos taken by Claude Taylor of Timaru and later of Rakaia. Top left, sisters Daisy Bell and Iris Cuthill view the royal train as it waits for the Queen to embark; top right, the northern entrance to Timaru; mid left, the bottom of the Bay Hill; right the top of Stafford Street; left, the entrance to Ashbury Park.



The official photos. Above the Queen at Ashbury Park, and at right, on the train preparing to leave the station - being farewelled by the Mayor prior to waving to the Taylor family just down the line.

