

Queen's visit stirs U.S. city

United Press International
SHERIDAN, Wyo. — The October visit of Queen Elizabeth II to Sheridan is creating only mild excitement among the locals, although the city is quite busy preparing for the visit.

The excitement is no greater than that generated by her husband's visit to the area 15 years ago, local officials said.

"We're proud to have the queen visit," Sheridan County Commissioner Pete Frith said. "It's not something that happens every day, but there is not a hue and cry about her coming."

Acting Sheridan Mayor Bill Lilley said the town is excited about Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's visit, but it is a private visit and we respect that.

The queen will be in Sheridan for a vacation as the guest of Lady Porchester, sister of Wyoming Sen. Malcolm Wallop, and wife of Lord Porchester, manager of the queen's horse racing stables.

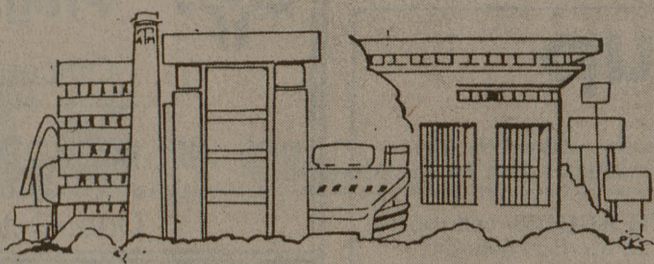
The queen is scheduled to arrive Oct. 12, after a tour of Canada and visit to Kentucky, and then return to England Oct. 15.

Sheridan County Sheriff Bill Johnson said U.S. Secret Service and British agents have been in Sheridan on and off during the past several months making security preparations.

No public appearances are planned during the short visit, but the queen will visit at least four local businesses, including one in Sheridan, Johnson said.

Johnson said his deputies, the Wyoming Highway Patrol and Sheridan police would provide security backup for the queen's visit.

A Royal Air Force VC-10 jet has also landed at the Sheridan County Airport to ensure the facilities there are adequate for the queen's visit.



Around town

Science students must take exam

Any junior or senior in the College of Science who has not previously taken the English Proficiency Examination should plan to take the test Oct. 15 unless they have completed English 301 with a minimum grade of C. Students in the College of Science are required to pass either English 301 or the test in order to qualify as a degree candidate.

The English Proficiency Exam will be administered by the English department. Students in the biology, chemistry, mathematics and physics departments should register for the exam in 313 Biological Sciences Building prior to the exam.

Voter registration deadline approaches

Saturday is the last day to register to vote in the November election. Aggie GOP will have registration tables in the MSC, Blocker Building and Zachry Engineering Center this week.

Big Event job requests accepted now

Job requests are now being accepted from the Bryan-College Station community for projects for the Big Event. Student organizations wishing to volunteer for this 4-hour service project are encouraged to pledge. Deadline for organization pledges is Nov. 1. Job requests will still be accepted after that date. Contact Mark Maniha at 696-5930, or Maritza Pena at 764-0770.

Aggie Players present Liliom tomorrow

The TAMU Aggie Players will open their 40th season with the haunting, romantic fantasy, "Liliom" at 8 p.m. tonight in Rudder Forum. "Liliom" will also be presented Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Tickets are \$4 for the general public and \$3 for Texas A&M students and are available at the MSC Box Office. Reservations can be made by calling 845-1234.

Christian video shown in MSC today

Anyone interested in viewing a Christian broadcasting video should stop by the MSC main hallway today before 5 p.m. Bumper stickers as well as brochures will be handed out free of charge.

Surgeons use skull bone to repair facial defects

United Press International

NEW YORK — Plastic surgeons are harvesting bone from the skull and using it to repair facial deformities from birth defects or car crashes.

"We can take out head bone as saw dust and make it into a pate and put it into an area where there is a hole," said Dr. Henry Kawamoto, associate clinical professor of surgery at the UCLA Center for Health Sciences. "Material can also be taken out in little chips or flakes, or we can take it out in strips and use it to build up noses."

Kawamoto said there are many advantages in harvesting bone from the head instead of hip or ribs — a traditional source of material for plastic surgeons.

"There are no scars that can be seen," he said. "They are hidden by the hair. The area of the donor site, the head, is close to the area we are working on, the face."

"The only pain is a little headache. Many patients stay in the hospital just overnight versus five to seven days, the case when bone is taken from the hip or ribs."

He added that the patient doesn't have any pain in the ribs, or have to

limp around in the case of hip bone being used.

Kawamoto talked about the bone grafts from the cranium while participating in an American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons seminar at the New York Academy of Medicine.

"Such grafts are much sturdier, surgeons are finding," he said, "and the grafts are not reabsorbed - or reabsorbed very little."

"One approach to harvesting bone from the cranium is to remove the outer half of the skull, using a saw or chisel-like instrument."

"Because the skull is composed of three layers — a 'sandwich' kind of structure — it is possible to split the layers apart, take what is needed and still leave the brain covered."

The surgeon said this technique is called "split thickness" cranial bone graft. Another technique, a "full thickness" graft, might be used if a great deal of bone is required to rebuild the face on a deformed child, he said.

In that situation, the entire bony structure on top of the head can be removed, leaving the brain temporarily exposed.

Kawamoto said the bone layers are then parted, or split. One layer is used and the unused part is returned to its original position, once again covering the brain.

In another technique described by the UCLA surgeon, an instrument resembling a miniature oil drill is used. "Potholes" about the size of a dime are drilled through the outer two layers of headbone.

Kawamoto said during the process, bone shavings similar to wood shavings, are collected and used to fill depressions or gaps in the facial area being repaired or reconstructed.

He said such shavings are commonly used to fill in the gaps created by a cleft palate, and would precede corrective dental work.

Kawamoto, who holds dental and medical degrees, said it is technically possible to harvest the entire skull cap.

"Some regeneration of (the skull) bone will occur but not a great deal," he said. "What remains, however, is of sufficient strength to protect the brain during normal wear and tear."

Nuclear plant to hit financial target

CSW's future looks bright

United Press International

DALLAS — Durwood Chalker is both an optimist and a prudent businessman.

Chalker, the chairman of Central and South West Corp., is confident the costly South Texas Nuclear Power Plant near Bay City is now on its revised schedule and will hit its revised financial target after years of huge cost overruns.

However, although Chalker believes the generation of nuclear energy could be vital to meet America's power needs in the future, he says he is much too prudent to get his company involved in another nuclear power project.

"No way!" he said when asked about involvement in other nuclear projects.

"You would have to be crazy to go to your board of directors or stockholders and suggest a new nuclear project," Chalker said. "And that's really unfortunate. Nuclear energy is the least violative of the ecology and it is the cheapest, if it could be built in a timely manner."

Central and South West, a holding company for four electric utilities serving a substantial area in Texas, Oklahoma, northern Louisiana and western Arkansas, is a 25 percent partner in the South Texas project. Its share now is estimated at \$1.4 billion.

Critics suggested the South Texas Project could be considered a costly

cloud hovering over the otherwise bright future of CSW.

"I don't consider it a cloud," Chalker said. "It is something of an uncertainty. But if you look at things like the supply and price of natural gas, and things that might affect coal generating plants such as acid rain legislation and railroad rates, I think everything in electrical generation has a degree of uncertainty."

"The uncertainty is not knowing how rational the licensing board might be when we get it (the South Texas plant) built. It's something of a roll of the dice."

When the project was started in 1975, cost for the two 1,250-megawatt generators was projected at \$1.4 billion. They were scheduled to be on-line in 1980 and 1982. The plant now is projected to cost \$5.5 billion and on-line in 1987 and 1989.

Electricity demand in the area served by CSW companies is growing steadily at a rate of between 2.5 percent and 3 percent a year.

The corporation's revenues were affected to some degree by the recent national recession. CSW serves a substantial area along the Mexican border where peso devaluations caused soaring unemployment and it also serves many communities in Oklahoma, Texas and Louisiana where the gas and oil industry recently has been staggering. But CSW income and dividends continued to

increase each year.

The company has increased its dividends for 33 years consecutively, a figure exceeded by only four other companies on the New York Stock Exchange.

Beginning this fall new transmission facilities will allow for interconnection of subsidiary companies making Texas part of the national power pool and able to draw power from other states or contribute power to them when needed.

The interconnections also will put CSW companies into one system-wide power grid. Computers based at the Dallas headquarters will constantly monitor and control the system which uses computers to figure out the most economic source of power for any area and makes sure that source is used.

"We will be, in effect, an energy broker here in Dallas for our four electric utilities," Chalker said. "The computers will consider such factors as the type of fuel, the current price of that fuel, the efficiency of the generating units and the location of the load."

Though it sounds like a system only an accountant or an engineer can appreciate, Chalker estimates that in 20 years the computer-run, interconnected system will save customers \$2.3 billion.

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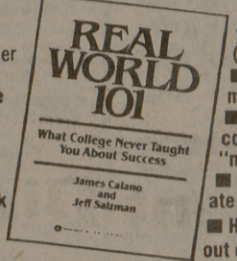
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