

JUST LIKE HER COUSIN ANNE



Barbara and Sheila Paterson meet the Princess.

By **BRUCE
MCLEOD**

PRINCESS ALEXANDRA went out of her way yesterday to meet the babes in the woods.

And she met hundreds of them at the Forestry Commission's Golden Jubilee Exhibition on the Bush Estate, near Penicuik, Midlothian.

When the royal car arrived at Bush House in the forenoon, the laughing princess surprised police and officials.

Immediately after meeting Scottish Secretary Mr. William Ross and Lord Lieutenant Sir Maxwell Inglis of Glencorse, she turned the wrong way—straight into a large crowd of schoolchildren lining the drive.

Later the princess received a bouquet of roses from forester's daughter Sheila Paterson, and she was quick to comment on the fact that the little girl was wearing the same colour of dress as her own blue coat.

After lunch with the Forestry Commissioners, the princess toured stands on foot and by Land Rover.

'Most useful'

At the Scottish Women's Rural Institute she bought two dish cloths from Miss Jean Thom of Aberdeen, and joked: "These will be most useful—they are always getting lost at home!"

By this time she was running half an hour late. Her last scheduled visit—a little wooded glen which pupils at Penicuik High School have been working on for eighteen months—had to be cut short.

But when she heard she had not met some pupils from Roslin Primary School at the far end of the glen, she arranged to meet them at Bush House before she left.

IT was more a colourful, sunny moment of Royal happiness than just an official visit to the Forestry Commission golden jubilee exhibition when Princess Alexandra visited Bush Estate, near Penicuik.

While fashion pollsters in the closed shop atmosphere of their world in London commented about her dropping from first to third place in a world's best dressed fashion league, Princess Alexandra strolled elegantly about in the sunshine wearing a beaming blue coat and made everyone happier with her warm smiles and her eagerness to talk. Especially to children.

She chatted to eight-year-old Sheila Paterson, seen here presenting a bouquet, and then stopped to talk to a girl wearing a similar dress to Sheila . . . and laughed when she discovered it was Sheila's 10-year-old sister Barbara.

She talked and laughed with the pupils of Penicuik High School who had laid the "wooded glen" nature trail. And she rearranged her programme to meet pupils of Roslin Primary School, who had been missed earlier.

No wonder everyone who met this Princess in Midlothian voted her top of their sunshine parade.