

Princess Beatrix Breaks First Ground For New \$90,000 Planetarium Here

Doffs Beaver
Coat in Sun

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A blonde and dimpled princess shed her sheared beaver jacket yesterday to spade New World earth for a building that will someday be named after the man who discovered the Hudson River.

Princess Beatrix, at her first official Albany function, broke ground for the Dudley Planetarium on South Lake Ave. The \$90,000 building will be erected next year.

The princess' beaver coat was significant. Three centuries ago, the Hudson Valley was dotted with little trading posts run by business-wise Dutchmen who bought beaver pelts from the Indians. No one in the princess' entourage could say whether she wore the beaver by design or accident, but the significance was there for all to see.

The Netherlands princess was an animated and smiling witness to the hour-long groundbreaking ceremonies. In rapid sequence, she heard herself proclaimed a "lifelong honorary citizen" of the City of Albany by Mayor Erastus Corning II and listened intently as Dr. Edwin R. Van Kleeck, assistant commissioner of Education of the State of New York, spoke of Albany's "admiration, respect and affection" for the Dutch people and the princess herself.

'WONDERFUL DAY'

Governor Nelson Rockefeller, beaming in the sun's warmth, said to the more than 250 persons in the audience, "what a wonderful day to welcome a beautiful princess."

Just as she did at Hudson, at Kingston and Hyde Park, as well as Castleton and Albany, the princess once again smiled in delight at the informal American greetings. As the governor's long black Imperial rolled up the driveway to the Observatory, children and adults alike called "Hi, princess," and even "Hi, Bea."

And she seemed delighted when four teen-aged drum majorettes from the Colonie



Princess Beatrix turns the first spadeful of earth for the new Henry Hudson Planetarium at ceremonies at Dudley Observatory yesterday morning. Standing, left to right, behind her are Mayor Corning, Benjamin Boss, observatory director emeritus, and Gov. Rockefeller.

Central School band whirled and pirouetted while the band played. The band manfully but hesitantly managed the Dutch National Anthem, for which the princess and the crowd stood, but worked its way with relish and vigor through our own "Star Spangled Banner."

For her second day in Albany, the princess wore a yellow knitted suit, black-off-the-face hat with tiny net

dots, and alligator pumps, with the beaver jacket over her shoulders.

GIFT OF FLOWERS

Midway through the Observatory ceremonies, she accepted a gift of flowers from Laura Terlaak Poot, of 22 Dove St. It was Laura's 12th birthday, and she was so flustered she forgot her little speech of welcome, but collected a beaming smile from the Princess.

The princess' gift to the Planetarium was an ancient print in three sequences, all showing a drawing of the globe as it was known centuries ago. It was presented by Jan Van Hengel, chairman of the Netherlands Hudson Commemoration Committee, with the hope that this will show the warm feeling of friendship the Netherlands people feel toward New York State and Albany.