

OUR GRACIE
SWITCHES
ON . . .



Lancashire
Evening Telegraph

Blackpool

ILLUMINATIONS SOUVENIR



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She'll set Blackpool ablaze tonight

CAMERAS . . .

LIGHTS . . .

GRACIE!

G RACIE FIELDS ("Our Gracie"), the Lancashire-born singing idol, will switch on Blackpool's £100,000 Illuminations tonight at 8-45.

She and her husband, Boris Alperovici, are staying at the Imperial Hotel, North Shore, where they will be given a civic lunch today.

When she switches on tonight a large crowd is expected in Talbot-square, where a platform and switch-on dais have been erected in front of the Town Hall.

Two features will mark the switch-on. One is a surprise item, which will be kept secret; the other will be the lighting of an Olympic torch, picked out in lights.

The timetable for tonight's event is:

7-15 p.m.: Music in Talbot-square by the band of the Lancashire Regiment and community singing.

8 p.m. (approximately): Gracie will be escorted from the Imperial Hotel to the Town Hall by Ald Tom Joyce (chairman of the Electrical Services Committee) and Mrs Joyce.

Gracie's songs.

8-25 p.m.: Music by Reginald Dixon, Blackpool Tower organist, who will play on an organ, erected on the platform, a selection of Gracie Fields' songs.

8-30 p.m.: The Mayor (Ald Albert Ashworth, JP) and Mrs Ashworth will appear on the dais.

8-35 p.m.: Gracie, along with Ald and Mrs Joyce will join the mayoral party.

8-45 p.m.: Switch-on, after a speech by Gracie.

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Lights on tonight

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9-30 p.m.: Gracie and the civic party will start a tour of the Illuminations on a decorated tram, proceeding first to the Pleasure Beach and then to Bispham.

Afterwards there will be a civic supper at the Imperial.

Blackpool's Director of Illuminations (Mr Harry Carpenter) said yesterday that workmen would be engaged to the last moment putting final touches to the equipment.

"Staff will be at work all today fixing and checking so that the switch-on will go without a hitch," he said.

Special trains

British Railways are running 32 special excursion trains over the weekend—three of these early tonight.

Of the 32 trains 17 will arrive at Central Station and 15 at North.

Tomorrow specials will be 18 and Sunday's 11.