

Gracie blows—to keep home fires burning



Tuning in to an old melody is Gracie Fields—seen here rehearsing with two members of the Welsh Guards' Band, who will accompany her when she sings that first-war favourite "Keep the home fires burning" at the "Salute To Ivor Novello" performance to-morrow at the London Coliseum.

VARIETY (Palladium): Gracie! That's enough—and she's backed up by such stalwarts as "Monsewer" Eddie Gray, Marlowe and Medlock, and Wilson, Keppel and Betty.
RATING: Fine variety.

Donald is good

A big orchestra got the show going with a fast, exciting beat—and maintained it throughout with impressive effect.

Donald Peers televised well, though he must discard all "bobby-sox gimmicks" when in front of the cameras.

And, of course, there was the magic of "our Gracie" with a song, a swank and a flimsy stole. She plunged us swiftly into the African veldt and a Spanish bullfight, then hushed us into pin-drop, moving silence for Ave Maria.

Grace or Gracie?

WATCHING GRACIE FIELDS at the Palladium last week I could not help thinking there was too much grace and too little Gracie. Where was the Lancashire nip and high spirits that endeared her to us all?

The old artistry remains, the flowers still shower upon her, and the audiences—many of whom cannot remember the Lancashire lass of former years—are as rapturous as ever. But . . .

I hope Gracie will not be persuaded by others to make the mistake of many prima donnas, who frequently say they intend to retire but never do. We want to remember her at her best, with voice and energy unimpaired by the years.

And I think Gracie would like that, too.