

GRACIE BRINGS HER BORIS



GRACIE FIELDS is back in England after her longest-ever absence—nearly a year—and with her is Boris Alperovici, whom she married in Capri seven months ago.

"He's the greatest fellow I've ever known," she said, as cheers welcomed them at London's Victoria Station last night. She

is here to sing on Monday at a midnight show organised to raise £15,000 for flood-wrecked Lynmouth. Then — back to Capri.

Then came the question: "What about Farouk?"—for Egypt's ex-king has been visiting her Capri restaurant-club.

Gracie said firmly: "He's all

right." Pause. "We don't see much of him, but his children come to the pool twice a day. They are charming. Farouk has not swum in the pool yet. He always swims in the sea."

As owner of her Capri club, she said, she has one attitude to Farouk: "He's a customer."

Gracie home sighs, but it's grand to be back

By Daily Graphic Reporter

PASSENGERS on the Golden Arrow boat-train stopped talking last night to listen as some familiar top notes of liquid sunshine filtered along the coaches.

"No—yes—yes, it is. It's GRACIE" they agreed.

My travelling companion, Gracie

Fields, was proving to me that she was in good form for Monday's appearance at the London Coliseum in aid of the Lynmouth flood relief fund.

Her audience will see a newer and fresher Gracie Fields.

For it was a beaming Gracie who sat holding hands with her husband of eight months, Boris Alperovici, the radio engineer she married on the Isle of Capri.

Turning to look again and again at her husband, Gracie exclaimed: "Eee, it's grand to be back in the old country. Eleven months? It's the longest I've ever been away from Mum."

THREE-DAY VISIT

"Boris and I are here for only three days," she told me. "I've got to introduce him to Mum at Brighton, take him to see 'South Pacific' and now he wants to see how the B.B.C. works..."

Gracie slipped on her ivory and diamanté rimmed spectacles, pushed her green-and-black flower petal hat on one side and gazed at the beaming Boris—"Don't you, love?"

"I couldn't come without him. He's been alone all his life and I've got to look after him. If I had left him behind he wouldn't eat a thing," she said.

It was a sudden decision for Gracie to visit England. One lunchtime she received a telegram from Mr. Prince Littler. The next she was busy packing at her restaurant home, "Song of the Sea."

For fifty years he was a man of character



Edward Rigby
He could play anything.

EDWARD RIGBY, 72-year-old character actor of stage and films, collapsed and died in George-street, Richmond, Surrey, yesterday.

As a youth he studied farming, but later went on the stage, appearing at the Grand, Fulham, S.W., in 1900 as Jackson in "The Ticket-of-Leave Man."

Later he appeared in dozens of plays. His dry, humorous character was in great demand.

His first film was "Lorna Doone" in 1934, but cinema-goers will best remember him in later pictures, including "Tony Draws a Horse," "Easy Money" and "A Yank At Oxford."

Altogether he appeared in more than 150 films. His wife,

whom he met in the theatre is Phyllis Austin, the novelist.

Mr. W. MacQueen Pope, a theatrical historian, said him last night: "He was a splendid actor, trained in a school which had to act get out."

"In those days, there was no microphone to rely on. Actors had to tour theatres many different sizes and audiences. But Rigby could play almost anything."

"I particularly remember him in the first production of 'The Blue Bird' in 1909. And he gave a great performance in Bernard Shaw's 'On Your Feet and in Your Shoes,' 17 years ago."

"Every one of his parts was carefully thought out and characterisation."