

**THE COMIC WHOSE
FACE WAS HIS
FORTUNE**



THEY were talking last night of Duggie Wakefield, the Yorkshire comedian. Of the man who started on the stage in 1910 as a boy soprano and finished up earning £500 a week.

THEY recalled Duggie Wakefield's appearances in variety, on the air, and as a dame in pantomime.

THEY spoke of Duggie Wakefield, the family man. Of his marriage to Gracie Fields' sister, Edith. Of his two children, "Young Gracie" and "Young Duggie."

But, most of all, THEY talked of his face. They said it was the funniest ever seen on the stage. So funny that it distracted audiences to such an extent that no one remembered a line from his shows.

Duggie Wakefield—seen above with sister-in-law Gracie on TV—died at the week-end. He had suffered from asthma for many years. He was 51.

**DUGGIE WAS GORMLESS—
IT MADE HIM A FORTUNE**

By Daily Graphic Reporter

DUGGIE WAKEFIELD, the gormless Sheffield comedian whose face was his fortune, died at Brighton on Saturday.

He was a brother-in-law of Gracie Fields, and started his career by singing "Thora" to lantern slides for 5s. a week at Bridlington, Yorks, when he was 11—40 years ago.

His face, he always said, was a caricaturist's dream. From being a small-show comic—and for a time a World War I Army sergeant—he became a London Palladium star by 1931. He made films in Hollywood, where they changed his name to Doggie because he made up for a dog's part.

He always wanted to settle at the seaside. This he achieved a few months ago—and there he died.



Duggie Wakefield

—a great comic.

3.30 GRACIE FIELDS.

with the Keynotes and Billy Ternent and his Orchestra. Compère: Bernard Braden. Dance Ballerina Dance, Teddy Bears' Picnic, Please Think of Me, Thingummy Bob, I Get a Kick Out of You, A Paradise for Two, Tzena Tzena Tzena, Waltz of My Heart, We'll Gather Lilacs, Keep the Home Fires Burning.

I hear that Gracie Fields is pondering on her future, and it may well be that she will decide to live permanently in England now.

Gracie had a tough break when her husband, Monty Banks, died so suddenly a year ago, and her courageous return to the stage was applauded throughout the land. I've just been looking through her story, told by Bert Aza, her friend and manager for over 30 years, and it makes a vivid account of the full and exciting life of the First Lady of the Music Hall.



It's hard to say exactly what Bernard Braden thinks of the photo of Gracie Fields and Billy Ternent, but there is no doubt about the popularity of the programme in which the three of them take part each week. The programme in question is, of course, "Wisk Half Hour" which can be heard each Sunday on Radio Luxembourg at 3.30 p.m. Also featured in the programme are the popular "Keynotes", the English close harmony quartet. Lever Brothers, the makers of Wisk, first presented the show in March, 1950, and it is expected to run for at least another six months.

**Now the B.B.C. faces
a nightly battle for
the listener's ear**

By DICK RICHARDS

MONDAY, July 2, is "Headache Day" for the B.B.C. On that day Radio Luxembourg, on a new wavelength of 208 metres, will start broadcasting nightly from seven until midnight.

And from October 1 Radio Luxembourg will drop its Sunday afternoon programmes and will concentrate solely on tackling the B.B.C. each evening.

Already, many attractions are lined up. There will be a Gracie Fields show three times a week, and a George Formby programme—and Richard Attenborough will be heard six times weekly.

How will the B.B.C. fight this stiff competition? Ironically, they begin a series of Attenborough disc-jockey programmes the day before Luxembourg start starring him.

They have already thrust plum variety shows into their Sunday afternoon schedule to fight the Luxembourg "menace."

When Luxembourg tosses away Sunday afternoons, will the B.B.C. move these Sunday shows to peak points of week-day listening? Or will they remain as complacently aloof, as usual?

Twenty Questions About the B.B.C.—See Page 5.