

PRINCESS GOES TO LANCASHIRE

Manchester turns off the rain and puts on spring weather in honour of a distinguished guest - making her first official visit to the city - Princess Margaret. Welcomed in Albert Square by the Manchester Regiment, the Princess makes her main point of call at the roofless ruin that was once Free Trade Hall. Built in 1856, it was gutted by German bombs in 1940. On the foundations - laid by Princess Margaret - there will rise a new and bigger hall which, as the Princess said, will not only be a monument to the glories of the past, but an act of faith in the future. St. Helens is next to greet the Princess. The lads and lasses of Lancashire turn out to give a never-to-be-forgotten welcome,

Visiting St. Helens famed glassworks, the Princess sees the furnaces - some of which have been alight continuously for four years. They produce (in a temperature of 1500 degrees centigrade) the molten liquid, essential for the glassmaker. Warrington Town Hall is the scene of another ovation for the Princess. Massed on the lawn facing the building are 5,000 schoolchildren - whose cheers punctuate the loyal greetings to a gay and smiling Princess.