

WILLIAM ALLEN RETURNS TO AMERICA

Relates Flight From Poland's War Zone

NEW YORK—William A. Allen, popular concert pianist and member of the Department of Music at Fisk University, returned from Poland on Friday, Sept. 29, aboard the S. S. Niwne Amsterdam.

In Poland since last July, studying music under the internationally famous musician Dr. Egon Petri, Mr. Allen, force to flee the country overnight, caught the last civilian train out of Germany and witnessed the feverish preparations for war in both Poland and the Reich during his three day flight through both countries and into Holland where he succeeded in obtaining home passage on the New Amsterdam.

Arriving with 1,196 other passengers fleeing the war zone, Mr. Allen expressed the feeling of jubilation and relief in getting back to America at last. He stated that this was the reaction of the entire passenger group. As one fellow-passenger, a European, expressed it, "the sky line of Manhattan is like a fairyland."

"As a Negro," Mr. Allen told reporters, "conscious of all the inequalities in America and the resentment we feel as a minority group toward certain American customs, I neverthe less am more hopeful of the opportunity for comparison with the European situation. The relative freedom in America as against that in Europe today convinces me that at least we have a basis from which to work in this country and the possibility of making the democratic tradition a reality."

"I think we will benefit as a group from the present European conflicts. The brutal treatment of minorities as an integral part of fascist policy will drive home to America the example she has set by her own treatment of minority groups, in spite of the Constitution and the true meaning of democracy. Everyone knows that the pre-

La. Life Insurance Company Buys Burial Firm

NEW ORLEANS, (ANP)—Announcement was made this week that the Louisiana Industrial Life Insurance company, owned and controlled by Negroes had taken over the \$450,000 business of a burial company located at Baton Rouge.

The burial concern was organized by whites to write business on Negro lives, a year ago and had grown to the above status with a weekly delit of more than \$400.00.

Certain conditions arose in the company whereby it was necessary to reinsure this vast business in another company.

Because of the financial standing and reputation of Louisiana Life, Secretary of State E. A. Conway readily approved its plan to take over this business. This is the third company reinsured by Louisiana Life during the past four years.

Since its organization Louis-

Students' Scholarship Problem

By entering OPPORTUNITY, Journal of Negro Life, Magazine's Sixth Annual Scholarship Award Contest. Open to high school seniors and college students. Scholarships based on scholastic merit. Any student can earn a scholarship. In case of a tie, the student with the highest grade point average will be selected.

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\$100.00, \$75.00, \$50.00 SCHOLARSHIPS!

MOTEN ON CONCERT TOUR

CHICAGO.—Continuing a concert tour which is in its second month, Miss Etta Moten, best known to the public for her lovely contralto voice as heard on radio and concert stage, has spent almost the entire month of Sept. in her home state, Texas. Her tour has included Waco, Wichita Falls, Fort Worth and Dallas, with a return trip to Wichita Springs at the request of white music lovers there. After going up to Miss. for an engagement there early in October, she will return to Texas to appear in other key cities there—Marshall, for Wiley college, Austin, and one or two others.

Commenting on the Polish tragedy, Mr. Allen stated that the Poles were totally unprepared in every way for the lightning thrust of Hitler's forces. Even though he had heard rumors from reliable sources as early as August 1, that Germany and Russia were planning to partition Poland by August 15th, he said, "the Poles pushed the idea." When asked if the Poles in the Russian Ukraine favored the entry of the Russian troops into Polish territory, he said that although there had been some anti governmental feeling among the people in the Ukraine, at the last they supported the Polish government as far as could be determined.

Mr. Allen is Chairman of the Fisk University Local of the American Federation of Teachers and is a member of the North Nashville Committee to Aid Spanish Refugees. His first concert of the season will be a joint benefit recital with Si-lan Chen, the dancer, here on November 5th. This recital, sponsored jointly by the Negro Peoples' Committee to Aid Spanish Refugees and the China Aid Council, will be held for the benefit of the Spanish and Chinese refugees.

Noted Lawyer Commits Suicide

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.—Dependent over financial conditions, Walter Comer, 55, well known lawyer and at one time one of the wealthiest men on the Northside, committed suicide Tuesday by drowning in the Penrose canal, Venice park. The body was discovered shortly after 9:30, by William Webb as he was headed on a fishing trip. He towed the body to the Abescon boulevard bridge and summoned police. Detective Allmond and Fry, investigating, said they learned that Comer had been talking with his sister, Louise, in his office Tuesday morning about 8:30.

Police say Comer attempted to commit suicide Monday, but was pulled from the bay near Albany and taken home. In addition to his law practice Comer at one time was the proprietor of a successful loan broker's establishment on Atlantic Avenue. He at one time was reported worth over \$80,000 cash, and a considerable amount of property. Most of his money was lost in the bank crash, and since that time he also lost his property.

practically all of the Southern, Eastern and Midwestern states during the 1939-40 season. Her concerts this year, as in the past, have been uniformly successful and well received, and she has appeared for every type of organization before enthusiastic audiences white and colored. presented, she will appear in under whose management she

Dining Car Meet Asks Nat'l Pact

CHICAGO, (CNA)—Negro dining car employees who cook and serve the meals for the travelling public are out to get a signed contract from the country's major railroads. Determined cooks, waiters, and lounge porters on the Big coaches gathered with one thought in mind at session here of the AFL Joint Council of Dining Car Employees—the contract. The proposed agreement, which will be submitted in preliminary form to the National Railroad Mediation Board by Oct. 15, demands that:

1. Working hours be reduced from 240 to 191 per month.
2. "So we can spend more time with our families." Ishmael P. Flory, secretary-treasurer of the body which includes all dining car locals of the AFL Hotel and Restaurant Workers International Alliance.
3. Paid vacations be granted.
4. That eight hours be allowed for any job assigned. Under Please turn to page six.

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Joe Louis' Mother Proud Of Her Famous Son ... Rodney

BY LESTER RODNEY Crusader (News Agency)

THE FIRST thing that hits the eye as you walk into the pleasant home of Mrs. Lily Brooks Barrow at 2100 McDougal Street in Detroit, is a striking drawing of her smiling World's Heavyweight Champion ship son on the mantle. "To my mother with love-Joe," is the inscription. Alongside of it is a picture of Joe's pretty wife with the inscription, "To a real mother, with love-Marva."

Mrs. Barrow settled back in a chair. "I'm glad that fight is over, I'm always worried about Joe's getting hurt. Of course I don't like to see him take care of himself—very well equipped—but I guess a mother just has to worry about her son." Joe Louis' mother is a soft spoken middle aged woman with a fine sensitive face, a face bearing the lines that any mother who brought up eight children through the poverty of an Alabama cotton plantation hut and the Detroit slums must have.

"Then you didn't approve when Joe first started fighting as an amateur?" I asked. She laughed. "No, I thought fighting was a pretty awful thing. I wanted him to be a musician, and gave him violin lessons for a while. You know Joe is very interested in music. But he never gave that fiddle much attention once he started to fight. I guess he knew he could go further in fighting. I guess he was right at that."

What kind of youngster was

Joe? Did he have any street fights as a kid? "No, Joe was a good boy, as good as any, that is. Not a sissy. He could only go to the seventh grade in school because he had to go to work. We had a hard time after moving up from Alabama.

"Joe was about 12 when we left the plantation, and came to Detroit. He began to work on ice wagon when he left school at 14. Then, later when he was 16 he got a job at Briggs Factory, then at Ford."

"I asked Mrs. Barrow if she had ever had occasion to spank Joe when he was little. She smiled at the memory. "I guess I had a few decisions over him."

"But you must be pretty proud of his success, even at the fighting you don't like. "Proud? Why! I should say! I keep all his clippings. Whenever Joe finishes a fight he comes here with Marva to stay for a few days and we go over the clippings together. It's just that you never can tell in fighting, and you know, some of the best have been upset but I'm pretty confident Joe will take care of himself all right in there."

"Mrs. Barrow, after what fight would you say Joe seemed the happiest?"

"Oh, that second Schmeling fight," she smiled. "He got the biggest kick out of that, even bigger than winning the championship if that was possible."

"An impression the papers sometimes convey is that Joe isn't interested in anything

much besides fighting. That he has little awareness of social conditions and such things as the wretched housing conditions for the people of Harlem."

Again Joe's mother smiled softly.

"Of course he's interested in things besides fighting. Joe was brought up in a family of eight poor children in miserable conditions. He had to leave school. Do you think he'd ever forget that, or that he doesn't know other boys like him have a hard time of it? You see, he rushes around so much, training and fighting and all, that he doesn't get around to talking about such things. Like I said, he concentrates. But I know he gives very liberally to charities and would do what he could. My lord, of course he knows!"

She added that Joe and Marva went to the Baptist Church with her on occasions and that the pastor was one of the many fighting for better housing for Detroit's Harlem, and against the police brutality prevalent in Detroit of late.

"Of course, even though Joe likes to go to church, I would say that he prays before his fights. I guess he's found out that the Lord helps those who hit the hardest."

We chatted a while more and then the clock struck three. Mrs. Barrow jumped up. "You will have to excuse me for a little while. I've got to send my baby off to school."

The "baby" turned out to be Joe's pretty 19-year old sister, Vernies.

Farmers Meet

OXFORD, N. C.—The farmers of the Oak Grove Community were called together at the Oak Grove school on last Wednesday, Oct. 4, 1939 for the purpose of organizing a Better Home and Farm Club. Approximately 85 farmers and their wives listen with interest while the purposes and objectives were given for an organization of this kind.

Robert A. Lewis, teacher of Vocational Agriculture at the Mary Potter School gave the address, and placed a great deal of emphasis on the idea of Improved Practices being followed on the home farms.

The farmers expressed themselves in a very favorable way in pledging their support and full cooperation in making a successful organization.

The following officers were elected: Nick Parker, President; Sherry Allen, Vice-Pres. Miss Lucille Allen, Sec'y; Miss Lucille Strater, Asst-Sec. George Strater, Reporter; D. W. Allen, Treasurer; Robert A. Lewis, Adviser.

The first major project the club is expecting to do is to set up a community Exhibition at the exhibit which is to be held at the Mary Potter School Oct. 26, 1939. This is to be an Agriculture and Home-Economics Exhibit, sponsored by the NEA boys and the Home Economics Girls.

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