

Allan Jones to Play Benefit in City

Area native Allan Jones, star of stage, screen, radio and television, will perform at Masonic Temple in Scranton on Saturday, March 28, to benefit St. Mary's Villa Nursing Home, Elmhurst.

Allan Jones was born in Old Forge, son and grandson of Welsh coal miners, he started singing when he was four years old in a church in his hometown. While going to school during the week, he used to do all kinds of jobs in the mines on the weekends, and also managed to travel to New York on Sundays to take singing lessons.

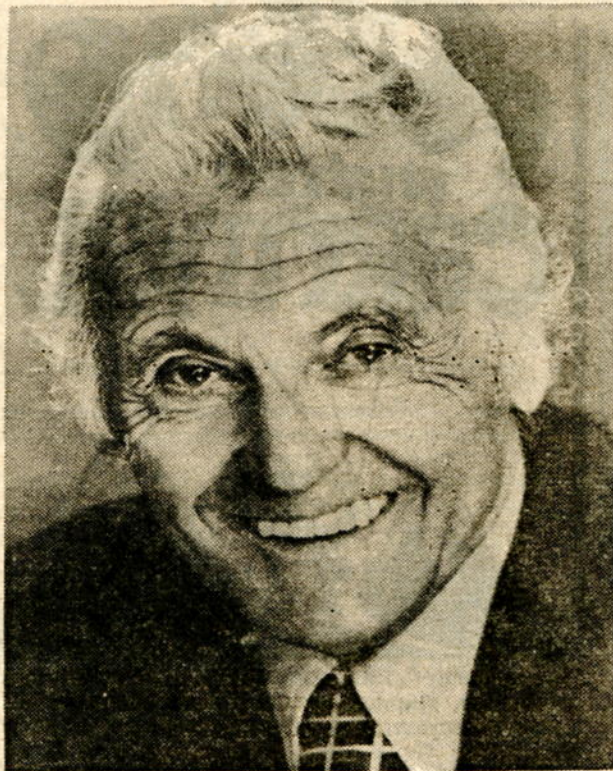
His entire family loved music, his grandfather taught music and singing in Wales, and his father had a magnificent tenor voice, and that talent has been passed on to Allan and his entertainer son Jack.

After high school, he went to Syracuse University. He was a student there when he won a scholarship to study at the New York University, and then he was offered a scholarship to study abroad. But he needed money for the trip, so he gave a concert in Scranton and that made possible his first step toward the career he always dreamed about.

He went to France, where he sang with the Cannes Opera Company in Deauville, and after two years, he returned to the U.S. to sing at Carnegie Hall in the first concert of the New York Symphony and the New York Philharmonic Orchestras combined under the direction of Walter Damrosch.

This started his career of concerts and during one of his tours, he was seen by the Shuberts, and offered a contract that lasted three years. He was spotted by a Hollywood talent scout and was offered a screen test. This landed for him a contract with MGM Studios and later with Universal and Paramount.

During his years as a movie star, his films included: "The Night at the Opera," "The Day at the Races," "Showboat," "Everybody Sings," "True to the Army," "The Great Victor Herbert," "Honeymoon in Bali," "Boys From Syracuse," "Magic in Music" and "The



Allan Jones . . . area native

Firefly," his most popular movie, as he introduced the "Donkey Serenade" in it, and this became the third largest record seller in RCA history.

His co-stars in movies included names like Jeanette MacDonald, Mary Martin, Irene Dunne, Madeleine Carroll, Judy Garland, Fanny Brice, Martha Raye, Susannah Foster, Helen Morgan, Kitty Carlisle, Ann Miller, Donald O'Connor, William Powell, Franchot Tone, The Marx Brothers, Robert Cummings, Paul Robson, to name a few.

Still under contract with movie studios, he traveled the U.S. and Canada, in concert tours, doing a one-man show which had been one of his greatest personal and artistic successes. He also toured part of Europe and Australia. In England he toured with his own company for two years and was presented a Command Performance before the King and Queen of England at the Palladium in London, an honor he shared with Jack Benny, Dinah Shore and Gracie Fields:

His show business career has included the most popular operettas, "Merry Widow," "Blossom Time," "New Moon," "The Student Prince," "The Chocolate Solider," "Desert Song," "Bittersweet" and many other shows, among them "Guys and Dolls," "How to Succeed in Business," "Silk Stockings," "Paint Your Wagon," "Fantasticks," "Happy Time" and "Man of La Mancha," which won him the award for Best Actor of 1971 at the Straw Hat Award presentation for his portrayal of Don Quixote.

This past spring he starred with "The Great Show of 1936," where he was also master of ceremonies.

His TV appearances include Johnny Carson, Mike Douglas, Merv Griffin, Steve Allen and in 1974 he was guest star in the "Monsanto Night Special" with his son Jack.

He has just returned from a triumphant eight-week tour of night clubs and TV in England and Scotland. Last year Jones starred in "Student Prince" and just finished a very successful engagement repeating the role of Don Quixote in "Man of La Mancha" at the Northstage Theatre.

His future bookings include a tour of Australia and a return tour of Great Britain.

The committee working on the promotion are: Sister Baptista, administrator of St. Mary's Villa, honorary chairman; David W. Roberts, general chairman; Mrs. Jane Collins and Herman W. Dömmes, cochairpersons; Mrs. Eleanor Nasser, ticket and program book chairperson; Lawrence L. Russoniello, entertainment; Edmund Strauch, assistant administrator St. Mary's Villa, treasurer for the event; Harry E. Butler and Louis C. Del Prete, publicity.

Tickets will be available at Martz Trailways and the Jermyn drug store in Scranton and Northeastern Bank at



Concerts Drive On

Community Concert Association is winding up its membership campaign for its 55th annual concert season to begin in the fall.

The four new concerts are: Stecher and Horowitz, duo