

W.C. Handy To Put Lives Of Race Figures In Song

NEW YORK, April 26—The lives of the great Race figures who have done their share toward contributing to American history, will be put into song and sung by a nation at large through the efforts of W. C. Handy. The "Daddy of the Blues" has just announced from his Broadway office that he and Andy Razaf are collaborating on a book of music in which more than 500 song stories will be told about these Race history shapers.

The title of the series is called "Unsung Americans — Sung." The first issue is one commemorating the memory of Richard B. Harrison, the lord of the play "Green Pastures." Copies will be sent to all leading white and colored colleges, churches, clubs and civic groups throughout the country.

Talking to reporters Mr. Handy stated that for a long time he has cherished this thought and now he can hardly believe that it's about to become a reality. "I want to bring to the attention," he said "of the younger group some of the works of their predecessors. These are some things that they don't teach in the modern schools—Negro history—and I think this is one of the most effective means of teaching it—through song.

"How many people know of the works of Black Pattie, great Race concert singer, Matthew Henson, who discovered the North Pole with Perry; James Bland, the writer of "Carry Me Back to Ole Virginny; and the founder of the Chicago Defender newspaper, the late Robert Sengstacke Abbott. These people and others I intend putting into music the story of their great accomplishments for the Race."

Several southern schools already have shown their wholehearted approval of Mr. Handy's idea and even though the first issue isn't off the press have ordered more than ten thousand copies. When a sufficient number of subjects have been covered they will be bound in book form with short biographical sketches and portraits.