

Louis Blues" has been recorded more than 400 times, and has been so sustainably popular that this composition alone earns the blind composer an average of 25,000 dollars in annual royalties.

Although Handy created unusual music simply because it was in him, critics describe his music as "based on the pristine 12-measure form and harmonic progressions." Handy had the soul of an artist, and the things that interested him were the things with which he was familiar. Whence he drew the title for his 1917 hit, "The Yellow Dog Blues," no one seems to know. Not so difficult to place, however, are the names of streets and locations in cities where he travelled. Thus the "Beale Street Blues," published in 1917, was about life on Beale Street in Memphis; the "Atlanta Blues," published in 1924, was named for that city in Georgia. "Harlem Blues" gives impressions of the famous section of New York City. Other compositions, which, however, failed to attain the popularity of the "St. Louis Blues," include the "Perdido Street Blues," "Afro-American Hymn" and "I See Though My Eyes Are Closed."

Today, W. C. Handy is still reaping the material rewards of his life as a composer of new and exciting music. He is head of his own music publishing house and is in demand as a radio and television personality.

Other rewards, too, are his, such as the satisfaction of being listed at the 1939 New York World's Fair as among the 600 leading contributors to American culture. Then there are the rewards that continuously come from appreciative audiences such as the group of high school students in New York.

As the blind, elderly composer finished telling these youngsters the story of his life, he patted his famous trumpet and said:

"Life is something like this trumpet. If you don't put anything in it you don't get anything out. And that's the truth."

Home on Wheels

ANYONE who claims kinship with that great iconoclast Samuel Butler is almost bound to have a touch of the unconventional about her. So it is with Maire Tidy, the novelist's great-niece, who is now visiting New Zealand. For many years Mrs. Tidy and her ex-Royal Navy Commander husband have been touring the world in their caravan "Erewhon." Mrs. Tidy has written three talks for YA and YZ Women's Sessions called *Rolling Home*. In them she considers caravans as holiday homes, as permanent homes on wheels, and finally as combined home and business ventures—travelling hairdressers' salons, small retail shops, and so on. *Rolling Home* begins from 2YA in the Business Women's Session on Saturday, May 21.

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