

Collection #
SC 3670

**HERSCHEL E. ALLEN
POETRY BOOKLET, 1931**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

**VOLUME OF
COLLECTION:** 1 manuscript folder

**COLLECTION
DATES:** Jan.-Feb. 1931

PROVENANCE: Joseph and Trudi Jordan, 2023

RESTRICTIONS: None

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**ALTERNATE
FORMATS:**

**RELATED
HOLDINGS:** Arthur Franklin Mapes Papers, 1971 [SC3031]

**ACCESSION
NUMBER:** 2023.0164

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Herschel Elsworth Allen was born 10 October 1915 in Oaktown, Knox County, Indiana. His father, John W. Allen, was a farm laborer and veteran of the Spanish American War. His mother Alta May [Shoulders/Racey] Allen died during childbirth when Herschel was only three years old. After that, Herschel's younger sister went to live with a cousin of his father's.

Herschel attended school in Pleasantville. At the age of 25 he entered the military and served during WWII. Afterwards he worked as a public transit driver in Indianapolis.

At the age of 43 in 1959, Herschel suffered a fatal heart attack while driving his car on SR 31.

Sources:

Ancestrylibrary.com, Indiana, US, Birth Certificates, 1907-1944

"Herschel E. Allen," *Indianapolis News*, 31 August 1959

"Mary Christine Allen Bates," <http://findagrave.com>

Materials in collection

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of one 16-page booklet produced by the Osborn Paper Co. which belonged to Herschel Allen in 1931. Herschel, who at that time called himself "Huck," filled the pages with poems and lyrics, some of which were original to him. Of the twelve verses in the booklet, five are originals. They are titled as follows: "That Ole Sweetheart of Mine," "My Love for You Shall Never Die" [after "Bedouin Love Song" by Taylor], "We are not Pals Any More," "Bury Me Out on the Lone Prairie" [After "Bury Me Not on the Lone Prairie"? trad.], and "God's Home."

Other Poems and lyrics transcribed in the booklet are "Ben Bolt" by Thomas Dunn English [1843], "There is a Little Rosewood Casket" recorded by Vernon Dalhart in 1925, "Jesse James" [trad.], "Break the News to Mother" by Charles K. Harris [1897], "Moonlight on the Colorado" by Billy Moll[?], "Only in the Way" recorded by Charlie Poole in 1928, and "A Mother's Request," by John W. Gibbons circa 1885 [titled "Be Home Early To-Night My Dear Boy"].

The 16-year-old Allen also repeatedly declares his feelings for a Roberta "Bobby" Kite on the inside covers of the booklet.

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Herschel "Huck" Allen poetry booklet, 1931

CONTAINER

Folder 1