

PEOPLE'S CHAMPION

body's got a job, everybody's about the same."

Pointing to a map on the wall behind him, Ali indicated cities circled with a black marker, "These cities are in countries where I've been and really took the place by storm.

"No American, athlete, or entertainer can follow me to these places, I would have to introduce them. The scripts I write, the movies I've made, the things I've done, have given me royal appeal.

"I can't get off the plane in any of these countries today without a riot. Foreigners look at you bigger, they look at me like I'm not human." Like the Beatles were bigger when they left home, Ali said.

In spite of the fact that he stops traffic all over Moscow and Albania, near Lennin's tomb, and received a royal welcome from the Kremlin, Ali admits he was glad to leave, he was glad to get back to America.

WORLD will have a "boys" chapter and Ali plans to donate his camp to be converted for this use.

In the tradition of Roberto Clemente, a baseball star killed while accompanying donated food and clothing being delivered to earthquake victims, WORLD will have a disaster chapter.

"Once we become tax deductible, people like Campbell Soup Company who give away millions of dollars to charitable groups will be able to donate to us," Muhammad Ali said.

WORLD will be headquartered in Washington with 60 flagpoles around the office. Each will contain a flag of the country represented and an encased photograph of the country's leader presenting the flag to Ali.

Ali broke up his talk by performing magic tricks, something he's also learned to do with considerable skill. The end of the impromptu press conference came when he called for Lanz Shabazz, his personal cook.

"You can feed me now," he beakoned with a broad grin.

The breakfast of this champ is not some dry boxed cereal. It consists of three lamb chops, three eggs over easy with cheese, whole wheat toast with a little butter and natural apple juice with no sugar. Sister Lana explains, "I think he would take lamb chops and eggs every day if we had them".

Sister Lana said she hears the bell every morning when Ali rings it and is always in the kitchen in time to have the hot tea and honey ready when he returns from running.

"He's not a fussy eater," she said of Ali. "For dinner he usually eats a steak, especially if he's in training like now. But you get tired of anything. Sometimes I give him fish instead, sometimes lamb chops to keep him from getting tired of one thing."

Finding the "certain types" of vegetables he is used to is difficult, she states. "Some of the times we have to go to two or three different stores."

Sister Lana who often has to feed more than 30 people at one setting, recalls an incident with the Indians who dropped in while making the "longest walk" from California to Washington D.C., indicating Ali's reciprocal love for his fans and friends.

"I came down and the whole place was full of Indians. He said, 'Feed all of them.' It might have been 20 or 30 the first time, but they kept coming. They would call me in the morning and say, 'Lana, the Indians are here, Muhammad says come on down and feed them.'

"It was great," Sister Lana said, recalling that her parents were part Indian. "In Islam we're taught they were the same as we were." Interestingly, the noted Muslim cook plans to publish her own code book in coming months.

As Ali ate we sat around an enormous oaken table 12 feet long. It was in the mess hall, one of nine cabins at the camp that cost Ali more than \$640,000.

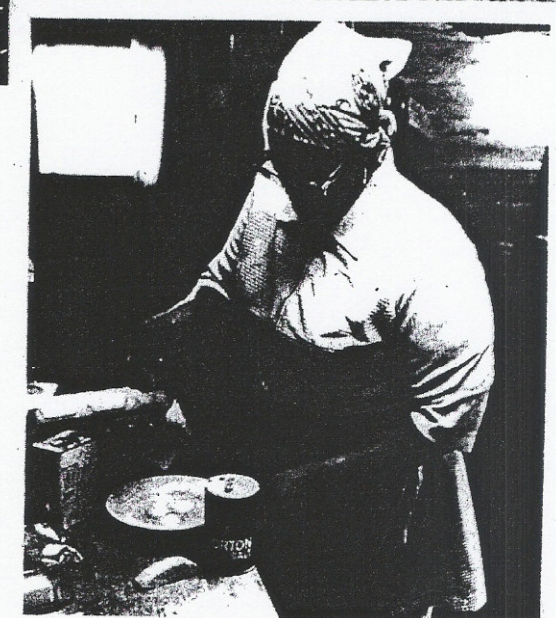
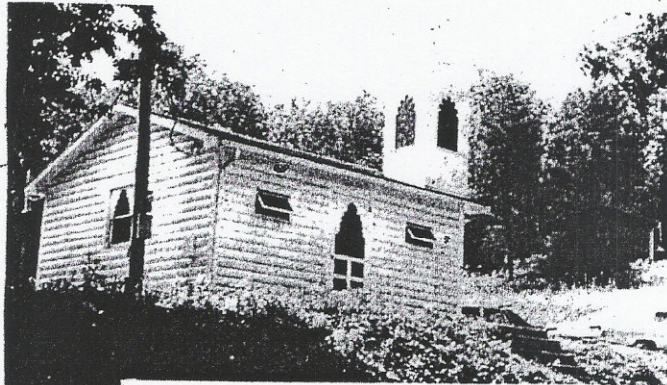
"This is the first boxing camp in American history," Ali said. "I had a bridge torn down to get the timbers.

"Out of all the money that was made off poor boxers by the promoters and trainers, they just robbed them, took all they could — drained them, didn't leave nothing.

"We've got everything here, hills, woods, gym, offices, private housing, I want other fighters to use it because I'm through with it. I don't want any profit — they pay their own expenses, I'll give it to them."

Drew "Bundini" Brown is another of Ali's trainers who like Wali Muhammad came to Ali by way of Sugar Ray Robinson.

"Ali wanted Sugar Ray to be his manager. His trainer and Sugar Ray didn't want to have anything else to do with boxing at the time, so he told him all he needed was a guy that called the Black Prince, "Bundini," Drew said. "I realize you don't tell Willie Mays and Mickey Mantle how to hit a ball, or just encourage them," Bundini said, explaining his relationship to Ali.



The first building you see when entering Muhammad Ali's Deer K Lake Training Camp is the Masjid where Ali goes for daily prayers. (above) Sister Lana Shabazz whips up tasty breakfast for a champion (center) Ali and wife Veronica meet with Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev at his office in the Kremlin. (below) Brezhnev photo courtesy of New World Review, all other photos by Wali Akbar Muhammad.