

African Youth Planning A Visit To The United States

Enjoys Reading Our Defender Junior

(Special to The Chicago Defender Junior)

Dear Bud: I am sure you will be grateful to learn how much your paper has far and wide, interests people; I have read it for sometime from one of my friends, and what really impressed me most was to learn how easy it is for one to make friends and make many friends, even across the seas. I am by nature one who would make more friends than I can remember; I am therefore asking you to write to me and tell me how I get your paper and join the club.

I notice that it has something to do with music, and I take much interest in music. I am hoping to be in America in three or four years' time, so it would really be a nice thing for me for you, and others to build friendship before we see each other. If it is possible for me to join your club or organization in Africa, please enroll my name as a member.

I am writing my junior certificate this month. And after my matric I will be going to America for my degrees. I do want to know more about America before I come there. Will you introduce my name to many young friends, tell them to write to me and I will write to my, or rather everyone who writes.

They would also like to get letters from friends over seas. As an African in Africa, I feel that this is part of my education following you leaders, and I am sure I will also reach the top of the ladder. Please sir take me as a small child, though 23 years old.—I am sir, truly yours, Herbert P. L. Mosikari, 12 Langa Township M. Q.'s, Capetown, South Africa.

P.S.—I would be glad to exchange my picture with other friends. "Boys and girls, we are all brothers and sisters, and we must therefore know each other."

BUD GETS NICE LETTER FROM PARIS, FRANCE

The fame of the Bud Billiken club of The Chicago Defender is spreading throughout Europe. Just the other day

Bud Billiken received an interesting letter from little 8-year-old, Doris Anlya Saunders, 25 Rue Hermel, Paris, France.

Doris is a former Cleveland, Ohio, girl who has gone across the waters to study music and dancing. She can speak both English and French fluently and would be happy to receive mail from the rest of members.

Every boy and girl in the club is asked to drop Doris a few lines

of cheer. Send her a Christmas card, and in return she will tell you about the swell times French children have.

Doris' letter reads:

Echoes From France

"Dear Bud: I am a little girl from America and I am 8 years old. I have been reading the Junior page of the Defender for one year now and I enjoy every line of it.

"I came to Paris, France, with my mother three months ago and have entered school here. I am also studying music and dancing. My home is in Cleveland, Ohio

"Will you please consider me a Billiken? I want to keep in touch with the boys and girls of my own Race. Yours for the good of the club, Doris Anlya Saunders, 25 Rue Hermel, Paris, France."



Doris Saunders

BUD SAYS: BILLIKENS EVERYWHERE

BILLIKEN, BUD

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BUD SAYS-

BILLIKENS EVERYWHERE

By BUD BILLIKEN

From all over the United States and even all around the world come messages from Billikens who have faith in their club. The other day we received a letter from a Billiken in the Philippine Islands, another from one in China and just recently we received a letter from a real 100 per cent Billiken in Toronto, Canada. That goes to show that you can be on the honor roll no matter where you live and that the Bud Billiken club of The Chicago Defender Junior Page is the greatest children's club in the world.

The Billiken from Toronto is named Benjamin W. P. Fox and his address is 69 Niagara St. He is 15 years old and is a senior at Ryerson school. He writes poems and prose, short stories and other articles and is the assistant editor of the school paper. He has kindly consented to write for our column. We introduce him to you and hope that you will give him the hearty welcome into our ranks, of which all Billikens are capable of doing.

We hope that this will cause every member to see just the scope of the club and feel proud of it and that it will also inspire other lonesome children in the far corners of the earth to join.

Kiddies to Study Foreign Languages

Are you a member of Bud Billiken's Foreign Language club? If not, then you had better get started or you'll be left by the wayside. Last week Bud launched a drive for foreign language students. And already he has received scores of letters from boys and girls everywhere who highly indorsed the movement and are eager to line up with the kiddies' editor.

They feel they should learn other languages besides the one they already speak. Billikens, who have expressed a desire to join the club, say they don't want to be tied down to the English language all of their lifetime. Instead, they are going to take up some foreign language in school so they can feel at home in the presence of boys and girls from other countries.

Old Bud is anxious to have you line up with him. Any child is eligible. There's nothing hard about it. Just tell your teacher in school that you have decided to take up a language other than the English language and ask her to help you.

The following letters were received from Billikens who indorsed Bud's plan:

SPEAKS GERMAN

Dear Bud: How are you getting along? It has been a long time since I've written you, but don't class me as a prodigal.

Bud, I am sending my application for membership in your foreign language club. I speak the German language very well: Och spreche die deutsche, sprache sehr gut! I have spoken it with two Fisk students I taught myself, and I know over a thousand German words. I can also write a lettel in German and I can write German script and can say the German alphabet as fast as I can the English. I can also count to a million in that language.

If you speak German, write to me in that language, mein herr, and I will answer you back. If you know any Billikens that know German tell them to write to me.

Bud, perhaps you known my brother, John E. Morgan of St. Louis. He is a Billiken, and will be in Nashville soon to live. Tell all Billikens to write to me.—I am as ever a loyal Billiken, Raleigh Morgan, 405 S. 10th St., Nashville, Tenn.

P. S.—I am a second year high school student and am 13 years old. I am a student of Pearl high school, Professor Richard S. Harris, principal. R. M.

SPANISH STUDENT

Dear Bud: It has been a long, long time since I have written to you. I have been out of the city to visit my sick aunt. Bud, I saw that you wanted foreign language boys and girls to join a club. I would like very much to join. I am taking up Spanish in high school. I just finished writing a letter to Havana, Cuba. Please enroll me as a member. I shall do all I can to help uplift the building of the club. Tell all the Billikens, please mam and please sir, to stop forsaking little me, I shall answer all letters whatsoever.—Yours respectfully, Irene Shelton, 929 E. 17th St., Indianapolis, Ind.

Letter to the Editor 6 -- No Title

Robbe, Helene

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Wadya think? Another letter from foreign parts. Here's one from a French girl living in London, England. Some letter, too, I'll tell the world. I'll let you read it.

London, England.

79 Guilford St., Russell Sq., W.C.,
April 4, 1922.

Dear Bud: I am a reader of the Chicago Defender and am especially interested in the Billiken page. I would like very much to become a member, but of course I don't suppose you want any foreigners. Anyway, I am filling in the application, and if I am not eligible to become a member you can just tear it up. You Americans seem such a jolly lot that I should like to correspond with a few of you. I am 17 but am still in school, although I shall be leaving soon. Have some nice boys and girls write to me. I will answer all letters that I receive. Perhaps you could write yourself. I know you think I am mighty cool asking you to write to me when I do not know you, but if you knew what a dud lot the English kids are you would forgive me. By the way, I am French. You need not restrict the letters to girls, as I do not mind hearing from boys by any means. My favorite sport is roller skating. What is yours? Do you like bicycle polo? I do. Do you speak French? Perhaps you would like to correspond in French. If so, I don't mind. If this letter works all right, we might exchange photos. What do you think? Do write back, won't you? I have a fine collection of stamps, if you would like to exchange. Lots of love to all the Billikens and to yourself.

Yours to a cinder.

HELENE ROBBE.

Some letter, eh? All right now. Did I answer it? I'll say I did. And I want all of you to write to her, too. Get busy, now. Let her see that the Billiken club is **SOME** club.

THE BILLIKEN STORY: LARGEST CHILDREN'S ORGANIZATION IN THE WORLD AND STILL GROWING

Johns, Meredith

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THE BILLIKEN STORY



EVERY CONCEIVABLE vantage point is occupied by eager Chicagoans and out-of-towners

as the Bud Billiken parade swings by. Thousands of men,

women and children watch this spectacular event each year.

It is the only parade of its kind in the world.

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Largest Children's Organization In The World And Still Growing

By MEREDITH JOHNS

"Mr. W. B.," the letter began, "please let this note get through to Bud Billiken as he has not heard from me in a long, long time."

"Mr. W. B.," in case you didn't know, is Billiken club parlance for "Mr. Waste Basket."

The letter, in an envelope post-marked the Philippine Islands, was childishly scrawled on a half-sheet of blue-lined notebook paper.

It was just one of hundreds received by Bud Billiken in one week, for the Chicago Defender

Bud Billiken club is international and is the largest children's organization in the world.

THERE'S THE SECRET

The secret of the Bud Billiken club's phenomenal success over the years is the fact that it is and has always been for and about children. As such, it is fed constantly with new energy and new ideas from the Billiken club's own never-ending fountain of youth.

But the Billiken club did not always stretch — as it now does — from one corner of the earth to the other. In 1920, just 35 years

ago, there was no Billiken club at all.

The Chicago Defender in those days was a paper for adults. Its columns, though well rounded with sports, theatrical & general news (which centered mostly around crime and news of a racial hue) carried little or nothing of interest to youth or children.

It was perhaps natural that the Defender City editor, the late Lucius C. Harper, a family man himself, was intrigued when through the mail the Defender received a few letters from children.



THE SINGING COWBOY Bob Acher will ride his famous horse in the 26th annual Chicago Defender Bud Billiken

Parade and Picnic, Sat., Aug. 6, in Chicago. He'll lead more than 50,000 parade — as the Billikens salute the Chicago

Defender on the Defender's Golden Jubilee. Getting for that festive day is "Hi, Bud, the Defender is 50."



THIS LITTLE Hopalong will be in the 26th annual Bud Billiken Parade and Picnic as special guest of the Hawthorn - Melody Dairy Farms. He is Joseph Garrett, 11, son of Mrs. Lee Garrett of 3447 Prairie ave.

Here was something extraordinary, Harper thought, for youngsters to write letters to a newspaper in which they had nothing to read.

AN EXPERIMENT

As an experiment, in obscure corners of the paper, Harper tucked these tiny items from kiddy readers and he was astounded when, before many weeks had passed, the mail from young readers took a decided spurt.

Unable to contain himself any

longer and not knowing whether Publisher Robert S. Abbott would accept or reject the "Children's Corner" idea, Harper took the correspondence to Abbott. Abbott grasped immediately the tremendous potential in printing news for "all his children."

Probing for a name that would be simple yet hold true and lasting meaning for youngsters everywhere, Harper's eye wandered idly over his desk top, coming to rest finally on a squat Chinese statuette. This statue was called a Billiken, which, according to legend, is the God of things as they ought to be.

BUD IS BORN

"Billiken, of course!" Abbott and Harper agreed, and Harper, digging back into his childhood for a first name, came up with his own nickname, "Bud." Thus the name of the club was conceived in another of those rare bits of insight that helped build the Defender in its younger days.

"Bud Billiken was Abbott's proudest possession," says Roi Otley in his new book, "The Lonely Warrior," which depicts the life and times of Robert S. Abbott. To Abbott, the Billiken club was indeed the most deep reaching of all the Defender's many projects.

The first Billiken editor was a young man named Willard Motley, who later was to achieve fame as author of best selling "Knock On Any Door." From Motley, whose school work became too pressing, the promotion and guidance of the club was passed on to another young Chicagoan, David W. Kellum, who for over 25 years moulded the Billiken club into the largest organization of its kind ever known.

WORLD WIDE SCOPE

The impact of this club is fantastic. Weekly, mail pours into the Billiken office from 48 states, Alaska, Hawaii, Mexico, British Honduras, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Jamaica, Germany, Philippines, Canada and many parts of Africa.

Contact between Billiken's is maintained through letters, post cards, picture exchange and even visits by members from one state to another. Billiken branch clubs, under the guidance of the Chicago Defender Billiken page, have sprouted in every state in the union.

Dues? There are none. All that is required is that the millions of members follow faithfully the Billiken code of good citizenship as outlined in the Billiken club rules. A Billiken card and button, uni-

versal symbols of membership, are mailed to each new member from Bud Billiken headquarters in Chicago.

BILLIKEN DAY

It was David Kellum, who on a suggestion from Abbott, sought new ways to perk up the Billiken club back in 1929. Kellum eventually settled upon the idea of a Bud Billiken Day, to be held one day each year, when all the children would have their "day in the sun."

That was the master stroke. Bud Billiken Day, highly successful from the start, has mushroomed since into the greatest celebration ever staged for children — anywhere.

Picture this. Crowds sometimes 10 deep line the curbs for blocks on both sides of the streets. Boys and girls, thousands of them, taking the spotlight as they march down the thoroughfare.

Military marching units, shining in fancy dress, stepping along to the stirring cadence of scores of

drum and bugle corps. Dazzling floats, representing many organizations and businesses, rolling slowly and receiving the applause of the spectators.

Celebrities — maybe Joe Louis, or Hopalong Cassidy, or Lena Horne, taking their bows though doubtless they realize they are playing second fiddle to the children on this day.

DAY LONG PICNIC

Then the day-long picnic, with all kinds of goodies free to the Billikens. And games, entertainment and the chance to romp free of care until small legs become too weary and eyes become heavy with sleep.

This then, is Bud Billiken day. And all over the country this day is eagerly awaited by children, attending this giant celebration in Chicago.

THOUSANDS CAN'T ATTEND

There are thousands of youngsters in far flung states and countries who cannot attend. But their minds fly over the miles as only children's minds can do — to sing and dance with Bud Billiken on their glorious day of days.

Though mythical in the hearts and minds of children, Bud lives as real. For as long as there is a Defender there will be a Bud Billiken. And as long as there is a Bud Billiken — as Abbott knew — there will be a Chicago Defender.



BESMA L. HARRIS, 313-14th st., Birmingham, Ala., Dear Bud: Just a few lines to let you hear from me. I received my card and button and rules several weeks ago I was very happy to get them. I have not written because I was waiting to get my picture to send to you. I would like to have some pen pals write to me. I will have more to say next time. Yours truly, Besma.