

CROWD OF 35,000 ATTENDS BUD BILLIKEN'S BIG PICNIC

(Photos on Picture Page)

Thirty-five thousand wildly cheering children, tired but happy after the merriest, largest, finest and wildest good time picnic ever set down before Chicago's children, gave a vote of thanks last Saturday to their old friend and pal, Bud Billiken, their host to The Chicago Defender's outdoor picnic in beautiful Washington park. They said Bud Billiken had set an all-time record for children's picnics and parties.

Thirty-five thousand youngsters voted Bud king of hosts, and 35,000 children and their parents can't be wrong. Saturday was truly the day of days for Chicago's South side.

Bud's picnic Saturday was the hottest thing old Chicago has seen since the fire, and the way the sirens from the four motorcycle police and ambulances and Cadillac squads were blowing up and down South Pkwy. just around parade time you would have thought somebody's house was afire.

Talking about fun, why we had the time of our lives. Imagine some 35,000 or more persons jammed into a park to cheer Bud Billiken—but that wasn't all. Amos 'n' Andy, internationally known monarchs of radioland; Duke Ellington, king of

jazz; Lucius Millinder and his Cotton club band; Herman N. Bundesen, coroner and health commissioner; Assistant Attorney-General Nathan K. McGill, general counsel for The Chicago Defender, together with 15 or more celebrities, were all there to make the day one of merriment.

Never before in the history of Chicago has such a day been witnessed.

Ice cream bricks by the thousands, candy by the carloads, souvenirs for the little misses, a three-mile parade, a bathing beauty contest, red-hot jazz by the one and only Lucius Millinder and his Cotton club band, a baseball game and everything else you could think of except a promise to do it again.

Bud Billiken rolled up into one big picnic enough feature attractions to

Continued on Page 5, Col. 2

35,000 ATTEND PICNIC GIVEN BY DEFENDER

Continued from Page 1

fill a Fourth of July, Labor day and Christmas eve

Amos 'n' Andy Cheered

Amos 'n' Andy themselves, in person, headed the long list of hosts at Bud's big Chicago Defender blowout. Right out of their broadcasting room they came into Washington park just to greet Bud's 35,000 guests. They were there, every bit of them: Madam Queen, Sadie Blake, Ruby Taylor, Lightnin' and the Kingfish.

Amos 'n' Andy, Duke Ellington and his band and Lucius Millinder's Cotton club band held the spotlight from 11 o'clock until shortly after noon. They did stunts and entertained Bud's guests in the same manner that they do over the air nightly.

The center of activities was just off from the duck pond at 52d St. and South Pkwy., where a huge platform had been erected especially for that purpose. The Duke's band, now playing at the Oriental theater, was the first to render jazzy tunes, followed by Lucius Millinder's Cotton club band. August Jasmin's Synopators from the far West side, a band composed of members of the Billiken club, played after the jazz kings left.

Movie photographers were there to take shots of the crowd, besides special shots were made of the bathing beauties, who ranged in ages from 4 to 10 years.

Big Street Parade

Preceding the picnic was a mammoth street parade which stretched three miles in length, and take it from us, it was the finest parade Chicago's South side has ever seen.

Starting promptly at 10 o'clock, the procession, which consisted of Boy Scouts, a 25-piece band from the South Side Boys club, a drum and bugle corps of Boy Scouts, motorcycle police, beautifully decorated floats, buses, trucks and the very latest models of touring cars.

Roy A. Lucas, director of boys at the Douglas playground, 33d St. and Calumet Ave., was general marshal of the parade. And believe it or not, Roy knows his parade. He had as his assistants Mauldin Gibbs of Drake playground and Foster Branch, Harding playground; E. M. Cleaves, former deputy coroner, and a detail of police from the Stanton Ave. station.

Starting at 35th St., the parade moved down South Pkwy. right into beautiful Washington park. The drum and bugle corps and the Boy Scouts led the procession, followed by the Boys club band. Then came a beautifully decorated maroon-colored Lincoln car, which was donated especially for the parade.

Riding in the car was Little Ole Bud Billiken, otherwise known as David W. Kellum; his son, James Kellum; Mrs. Goldie Walden, Bud Billiken's secretary, and William T. Brown Jr., prominent undertaker at 3634 Indiana Ave., and truly the best friend the Chicago Billikens have.

Following this car was the great Duke Ellington himself, who bowed as the thousands who lined the streets cheered. Enell Simpson, business manager of The Chicago Defender; Irving Mills, Duke Ellington's manager, and Lucius Millinder, director of the Cotton club band, were others in the party.

Duke Ellington's family, his mother, father, son and sister, rode in a beautiful maroon Pierce-Arrow sedan. Behind them was another Lincoln carrying Bud Billiken's parents, Mr. and Mrs. David C. Kellum; Mrs. Dent, Mrs. Bertha Daniels and daughter, Selwyn of Greenville, Miss., Mrs. Leland Edwards and Miss Jennie Curtis.

Another official car, a Pierce-Arrow, donated especially for the picnic, carried Malcolm Vineberg, manager of L. Fish Furniture company, 1906 Wabash Ave.; Abraham Tannenbaum, manager of Neisner Brothers Five Cent to a Dollar store, 411 E. 47th St.; N. D. Brascher and George Smith, president of Musicians union, local No. 208. Hundreds of other prominent business men and women rode in other cars along the route of the procession.

A brand new private ambulance, the property of Undertaker W. T. Brown, furnished additional noise. Then came that long line of trucks, buses and private cars filled with children. The parade was more than three miles long.

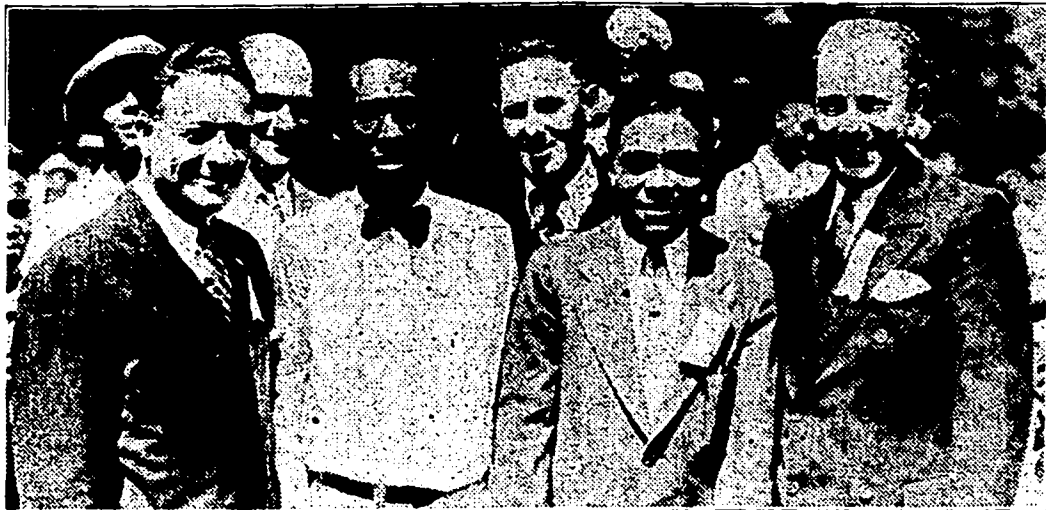
The second division of the parade was made up of the Billikens from the far West side of Chicago, under the personal supervision of Greene R. Whitney, insurance broker, and William Ray and E. H. Handy of the William Ray Undertaking company, 1348 W. 14th St., and L. C. Branch, 1369 Blue Island Ave. These men chartered special cars and brought the West side Billikens to the parade.

The third division was made up of the North side children, under the leadership of Mrs. Ruby Welcker. These kiddies came in for their share of applause.

One of the highlights of the parade was the outburst of cheers that rang out for Robert S. Abbott, editor and publisher of The Chicago Defender, as the procession passed his home on the boulevard.

Mr. Abbott, who has been ill, was unable to come to the front porch where he viewed the kiddies. For more than an hour the youngsters cheered, while the sirens from the motorcycles blew. It was a great day for Mr. Abbott and Bud's gang was sure glad to see him.

There is no doubt about it, this was the greatest parade Chicago has ever seen. The next one is scheduled for next summer when Bud will stage another picnic. In the meantime, Bud is thinking seriously of his big Thanksgiving party.



DEFENDER PHOTO

CHEER BILLIKENS—A crowd of 35,000 persons jammed Washington park Saturday, Aug. 15, to attend The Chicago Defender's Bud Billiken picnic. Amos 'n' Andy, internationally known radio stars, headed the reception committee. Left to right: Charles Correll (Andy); David W. Kellum (Bud Billiken); Assistant Attorney General N. K. McGill, general manager Chicago Defender, and Freeman Gosden (Amos). Rear: Malcolm Vineberg and Abraham Tannenbaum.