

BILLIKENS SADDENED BY DEATH OF EDITOR ABBOTT

Dedicated His Life To Children's Work

He Was Interested In All Affairs Concerning The Billikens

By DAVID W. KELLUM (Bud Billiken)

The death of Hon. Robert Sengstacke Abbott, editor and publisher of the Chicago Defender, will be sadly mourned by members of the Bud Billiken Club, for it was he who was responsible in a large way for the success of this great organization.

When news spread of his death, sponsors of Billiken branch clubs and leaders of various children organizations began to flood the Chicago Defender office with telegrams and letters of condolence. They knew that the death of Mr. Abbott meant the passing of one of the greatest leaders the Race ever produced.

Mr. Abbott was one of the prime leaders in the formation of the Bud Billiken club. While the idea of the children's page and club was originated by Lucius Harper, the present managing editor, it was Mr. Abbott who oftentimes fostered ideas for the promotion of many activities.



Although he had no children, Mr. Abbott was fond of them and never failed to avail himself of an opportunity to be present at the affairs sponsored by the Bud Billiken club. Those who have lived in Chicago can recall how Mr. Abbott always took his place at the head of the Bud Billiken club picnic parades.

Until his health failed, he was always in attendance at the annual picnic held every summer in Washington Park and spent his spare time assisting in serving orangeade, ice

cream and other free eats.

At Thanksgiving time boys and girls always gave Mr. Abbott a big welcome when he appeared as the headline attraction at the annual turkey party held on the stage of the Regal theatre.

Played Santa Claus

Unfortunate boys and girls, whose families were unable to get the attention of Santa Claus, were always made happy at Christmas time when he personally distributed well filled baskets of food and toys to them.

Mr. Abbott had many pet peeves, chief among them was the study of foreign languages. He believed that every Race boy and girl should know at least three foreign languages.

From time to time stories encouraging the study of the foreign languages appeared on the Bud Billiken page. At Easter time when the Bud Billiken music festivals were held, Mr. Abbott always encouraged children who could speak a foreign language to sing or give a recitation in a foreign tongue.