DEMOCRACY AT WORK:

Only The Cabs Go By Color

.... A Baltimore taxi firm decided to give fair hiring a try and business increased by leaps and bounds.

By LOUIS ROBINSON

A man-made boulder often found in the path to smoother race relations is the old one thrown in by employers seeking, deliberately or not, to avoid fairer employment practices

"Our customers will complain, maybe even take their business elsewhere," they say, "if we hire a colored person" (Other than as a janitor, maid or elevator operator) Or, "Some of our employers would walk right out."

This argument is as erroneous as it is old, and there is perhaps no greater proof of its falseness in Baltimore than the Yellow Cab company, which, with a new non-discriminatory policy in using colored taxicab drivers, did a $3,400,000 business last year

First Hired In 1951

The company put 14 colored taxicab drivers to work on March 14, 1951, for the Belle Isle cab company, a subsidiary firm, following conferences between company officials and Urban League representatives, and trips to Philadelphia where colored drivers were already successfully employed by Yellow Cab.

Soon after the original 14 were hired, others were added and five months later some started driving Yellow Cabs.

The best guess as to how many are now employed is about 300, nearly one-third of the company's total number of drivers. If you wanted to know exactly, you'd have to go around and count noses, for colored drivers have now been so successfully integrated that the company no longer keeps employment records according to race.

When the question of "how many" now employed was put to Carl L. Wright, vice-president in charge of operations, he answered matter-of-factly:

"I would have no way of knowing."

Furthermore, Mr. Wright says, "we find no difference in colored and white drivers."

Resistance Short-Lived

"When we first started, we had some resistance," Mr. Wright admits, "but now it's just a matter of practice."

During the early days of the colored drivers, some of Yellow Cabs' regular customers threatened to boycott the firm if a colored man was driving a cab they ordered, but this sort of bigotry was slight and short-lived.

"We absolutely refuse to send them another cab if they won't ride with a colored driver, regardless if they have been riding with us for 30 years," declares William F. Warder, company superintendent.

Most of the few revolters have come off of their biased high horses and are back in the Yellow Cab fold, and some who once were indignant have sincerely seen they were wrong and have told the company so.

Some customers, for reasons unknown, now even prefer colored drivers. Perhaps they had an experience similar to that of a visiting wealthy Texas businessman who, once returned to the big state, felt obliged to write the company.

Surprised By Courtesy

It seems that the Texian arrived in Baltimore by train and hailed a taxi for his trip to a downtown hotel. Halfway to his destination, he nearly had heart failure when he discovered that his driver was colored.

Once at the hotel, the heart failure was virtually complete when the driver got out of the cab, took the man's baggage, and escorted him inside the hotel. A rare present-day occurrence indeed.

While the color of the cabbie had shocked the Southwesterner, the courtesy and efficiency of the driver had stunned him even more, and it was this that prompted the letter.

How white drivers feel about their colored co-workers was exemplified in an incident revealed by Mr. Warder.

A colored driver on the night shift for 18 months was recently discharged after a third charge of reckless driving on the street was recorded against him.

The day man (a white driver) using the same vehicle—and an employee of 15 years—came into the office and argued against the firing of his cab partner, whom he had found kept the cab in excellent condition and was enjoyable to work with.

"We have had several other cases along the same line," Mr. Warder said.

Cafe On Way Out

A privately-owned cafe on the Yellow Cab premises has not kept interracial pace with the taxicab company, steadfastly refusing to serve colored employees.

"This has been a source of irritation to us. We're taking up the lease in April," Mr. Wright announced.

There are other drawbacks connected with a cafe on the premises, it was explained and Mr. Warder declared that the lease wouldn't be renewed "at five times the price."

Mr. Wright believes that, while the company has given them a break, colored drivers can still do something for themselves.

"On this particular job, the colored man has more opportunity to do a good public relations job for his race than any other he could have." Mr. Wright says.

"The contact he has with the public is more personal than that of a bus driver, a bread salesman or a minister. The closeness of that cab has the effect of promoting conversation."

Henry West, left, and Ray Patterson were two of the Baltimore Yellow Cab Company's first colored drivers.

Neatness And Manners

Neatness in dress and personal decorum are prime factors in making the most of this personal contact, the vice president opined.

A step toward modernization in equipment is now being made in the Belle Isle fleet, commanded predominantly by colored drivers. Half of the fleet is getting two-way radios installed for greater efficiency.

"The colored drivers that are handling the radio cabs are doing a top-notch job," Mr. Warder said, explaining that radio drivers "have to be a shade above ordinary drivers" because a greater knowledge of the city is required and many times the drivers must go into homes to assist passengers and sometime end up as baby sitters.

Though most drivers shy away from inside "desk" jobs and often lesser-paying outside-dispatcher jobs, some colored drivers may eventually land in them.

Advancement Possible

"There's no reason why these fellows, if they are willing to work and advance in the cab business, shouldn't be advanced in position," Mr. Warder declared, mentioning a few men who he feels show outstanding qualifications.

Yellow Cab company, of which Robert Freedman is president and Ben Reubens is vice-president in charge of insurance, has been operating in Baltimore for 44 years now. And although it didn't have colored drivers for the first 42, Mr. Wright declares:

"We have found nothing that would induce us to change our present policy."

This policy of integration by Yellow Cab won for its president, Mr. Freedman, a berth on the 1951 AFRO-AMERICAN Honor Roll, an annual roster which cites outstanding citizens for their contributions to the community.

BOB TAKES A TRAIN

By HERBERT McKENNA

3 MINUTE FICTION

Bob knew that he didn't have a chance with Doris Humphrey, but he couldn't resist being with her while the opportunity offered.

Doris was the daughter of Justin Humphrey, who owned the mine in Arizona, where Bob, as a young engineer just out of college, was employed. This much Bob found out from young Paul Darrell. Darrell was Bob's companion worker, a tall, flashily handsome youth, the son of a wealthy New York lawyer.

Darrell's flippancy awoke resentment in Bob. But he reproached himself for his annoyance. He hadn't any right to feel anything, or care what Doris did or whom she married. True, she had been nice to him since she had arrived with her father on his annual visit. The second night they had danced together three times at the celebration. Two days later, Sunday, under the guise of being polite to the boss' daughter, he had asked her to go riding with him.

After that their trips into the hills or visits to the mine or strolls through the village were regular things. But Bob didn't kid himself anymore. He knew that she enjoyed herself with him because there wasn't any one else.

He, Bob didn't kid himself. And he told himself four or five times every day that he wasn't falling in love. It wouldn't make any difference to him at all when her visit ended and she went back to New York. But when the time came he felt like the devil. He wasn't even at the train to see her off. They said good night, casually, indifferently, the evening before. Bob let her think he'd be at the train the next day. But he wasn't.

Old Justin wasn't due at the mine again for another year, but for some reason he broke this rule and came down in September. Doris was with him.

"Hello, pardner," she called gaily. "For goodness' sake don't stand there like a mummy. Act glad to see a fellow."

Bob never did discover what it was that brought Old Justin back to Arizona that September. Nor did he really care. It was enough to have Doris there. They renewed at once their casual relationship.

Bob was so happy that he forgot to tell himself that he wasn't falling in love, that he didn't have a chance with a girl so far above him.

They spent the last evening together on the desert. There was a moon and a gentle wind. Doris said suddenly: "You love it here, don't you, Bob? I mean, the desert."

He nodded. "It gets into your blood after awhile."

"I know," she agreed. "I've train to New York.

The next day Bob took the train.

Bob heard my grandfather say the same thing. Grandfather was a prospector, you know. It was he who discovered this mine. He didn't have a cent up until then. He didn't have anything but the faith of a good woman."

"His wife?" Bob asked.

Doris nodded. "They were very happy together. She loved the desert, too." She paused and turned to face him. "I—guess that's why I love it. It's in my blood. At any rate, I insisted that father bring me back with him this time."

It wasn't until the next day, after Doris and her father had gone, that Bob thought about the conversation again. It seemed to him strange and a little incongruous—that story about her grandfather. He went into the superintendent's office and asked Charlie Craig about the grandfather. Charlie had known the old boy.

"—Sure," Charlie said. "The old man loved her and he didn't have a cent. She was the daughter of one of the state's wealthiest men. He waited quite awhile and then he up and proposed, as a sort of last resort. He told her he didn't have a dime, but that he guessed if she loved him they could get along."

Bob's heart pounded. "Did Doris know that's the way it was?"

"Sure she did. I've told her that story a dozen times."

Henry West talks with Basillio Rodriquez, another Yellow Cab driver.

AFRO Family Of The Month

Meet the Andersons, 12 in all. They make ends meet and get a lot of fun out of life on a $75 a week paycheck.

The AFRO Magazine believes that large families are a joy and not a burden, as some people say. We think there are many such families who are enjoying this life, despite high prices and threat of war, therefore we have included this feature.

We give $10 awards to families selected. Readers are invited to submit names and addresses of other large families where there is comradeship and pleasure in meeting everyday problems

By RUTH ROLEN

Until last May 12, when his seven-pound, four-ounce Junior was born, Alfred A. Anderson of 1030 McDowell st., Wilmington, Del., had the problem of being the only male in a household of 11 females.

Nose counting is a necessity in this man-invaded woman's world of Anderson and his wife, Cora Irene, who at 31 and 26, respectively, seemingly balance the budget better than the fund-fumbling financiers in the nation's capital.

Out of a weekly salary averaging $75, earned at the Allied Kid Leather factory, the breadwinner manages to buy $50 or more worth of food every seven days. With a monthly rental of $26, clothing must be purchased at least every other week. Added to these necessities are utilities needed in normal household operation.

Potatoes And Apple Sauce

Fortunately for their purse strings, the Andersons are not heavy meat eaters. The youngsters would settle any day for sweet potatoes and apple sauce. Their nutritious-minded mother, however, sees to it that every meal is as well balanced as it is tasty and attractive.

To keep the Anderson household going, 40 quarts of milk, 84 oranges and two baskets of potatoes are consumed weekly. When the entire seven quarts of milk are not purchased within one day the balance is made up by canned milk.

No Finicky Tastes

Mr. Anderson said the high cost of food doesn't present too much of an economical problem because the size of his family just doesn't allow catering to individual likes and dislikes. What one eats, all eat.

Clothing requirements are somewhat eased by gifts from Anderson's grandmother, Mrs. Margaret Morgan, and his aunt, Mrs. Hattie Morgan, respective godmothers of Phyllis Irene, 10, and Constance Arlene, 3. The aunt has also taken Deborah Jean, 2, as an unofficial godchild.

Shoes, however, must be purchased on the every other week basis. It takes approximately six months to shoe the entire family.

Besides utmost running out of space in their not-too-spacious home, the Andersons find their supply of favorite names dwindling. Besides Phyllis Irene, there is Jacqueline Phyllis, 9.

Nicknames are also on the scarce side with only Arelia Antoinette, 4, being dubbed "Tony;" Alfreda Denise, 1, "Nisie," and the baby who saved the situation for the males, "Chucky."

Rounding out the Anderson roll call are Barbara Ann, 10, Erma Yvonne, 9; Portia Aloise, 7; and Maxine La Verne, 6.

Pint-Sized Parade

There were no multiple births. The two ten and two nine-year-olds were born at the beginning and end of the years.

The youngsters who attend school always leave and return home together. They resemble a pint-sized parade entering and leaving the Frederick Douglass school.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred A. Anderson f 1030 McDonald st., Wilmington, Del., are shown with their 10 daughters, Phyllis Irene, Barbara Ann, Jacqueline Phyllis, Erma Yvonne, Portia Aloise, Maxine La Verne, Arelia Antoinette, Constance Arlene, Deborah Jean, and Alfreda Denise. Not shown is eight-month old Alfred Jr. (Rolen photo).

As for their home life, Phyllis Irene is a bookworm but Barbara hobnobs with hobbies. Both knit, in their fashion.

Jacqueline Phyllis likes to do household chores which are assigned to each of the older ones. This makes Portia unhappy as does anything which takes her away from play.

Erma, who wants to be a ballet dancer, is quite an acrobat already. Once she stayed so long in one of her flip flops, she had to be pulled out of it.

Maxine doesn't specify as to what type of dancer she wants to be, she just wants to dance whenever she hears music. Antoinette, who likes to sing, is "daddy's girl." When the others run to mommy, she makes a bee line for her father.

Mother Has A Hobby

Between washing behind ears and plaiting braids, Mrs. Anderson somehow finds time to devote to her art—painting. Sometimes, it's a baby's bottle in one hand and a paint brush in the other.

Born in nearby Claymont, Mrs. Anderson was one of 13 children. Of all things, she was scrubbing a floor when her then future mate first saw her and, from the way things turned out, he must have taken a second look.

Air Force Veteran

Gifted with a baritone voice, Anderson is lead singer in the Echoes of Zion quartet. Also a native of Claymont, the air force veteran is a member of St. Thomas church, Glasgow, Del., of which his grandfather, the Rev. John Morgan, is pastor.

Although they are hailed as the youngest couple in Wilmington with 10 children, the Andersons actually only have had five offspring born during their seven-year union.

Mrs. Anderson is the mother of Jacqueline Phyllis, Barbara and Portia by her first husband. Anderson sired Phyllis Irene, Yvonne and Maxine during his previous marriage.

Regardless of who, what, where, when, or why, it's still 11 females and two males.

Used To It...

A Short Story Complete On This Page

By SHIRLEY HURLEY

Nathan and Oliver were friends, which, on the surface, seemed unusual, because the former was a city man, dwelling on a noisy back street near the heart of a great shopping center, and Oliver abides in the country, on the banks of a cool and quiet stream.

The friendship began in early childhood, when the two lived in a small suburban town. The community, because of its proximity to a large seaport, prospered and grew rapidly. Simultaneously upon being graduated from high school, Nathan secured employment as assistant shipping clerk in the city and Oliver became employed as helper to a wholesale firm that delivered products into the rural districts.

Eventually, because of his many trips into the country, he had acquired a fondness for its quiet restfulness. Oliver gave up his job with the wholesale house and invested his savings in a small farm. Here he settled down and lived comfortably as a truck gardener.

Envied His Friend

Nathan, visiting Oliver in the country, bertayed a certain envy for his friend's contentment, and Oliver, sensing this and eager for his old crony's company again, urged the other man to quit his job with the shipping company and come out into the rural districts to live.

And Nathan would nod his head and agree. "I'm going to do it. Pretty soon now I'm going to quit such a shipping company and come out."

But the two men reached middle age and still Nathan clung to his job, because it paid him good wages and the work was easy.

Oliver continued to talk, conjuring in the other man's mind a picture of peace and restfulness and fulness. And one night Nathan lay awake and thought of what Oliver had said.

Suddenly he became aware of all the noise and clatter that was going on about him. Outside a street car clanged past; from the next room there came the raucous notes of a radio; in the distance he heard sounds of riveting. The room where he lay was stuffy and hot, filled with scents from the streets and nearby docks.

Nathan Quit His Job

So Nathan quit his job and bought a small place next to Oliver's. He was pleased with his purchase. All about him there was peace and quiet, fresh air and fresh smells. Nathan wondered why he had waited so long.

The first night he went to bed early. But he couldn't sleep. He rolled and tossed and was more conscious of the quietude than he had been of the noise. Toward midnight he drowsed off. He awoke early and found that his head was aching. The day was hot and sultry and it was difficult getting himself in a pleasant frame of mind.

That evening he sat with Oliver on the latter's porch and smoked his pipe and tried to convince himself that he was enjoying it. But, despite the smoke, the mosquitoes were pretty thick, and Nathan departed early to get away from them.

The day after that it rained and Nathan spent the time indoors. Oliver had gone to town with a load oif vegetables. Nathan wandered about the house like a caged animal. He felt restless and annoyed. The sound of rain on the rof was oppressive.

Two nights later Oliver called at his friend's house and found the place locked up. There was a white envelope pinned to the door with his name written on it. The note enclosed directed Oliver to sell the place for whatever he could get. He, Nathan, would be out soon to pay Oliver a call, as he had been doing for years past.

Oliver was not alarmed. He stuffed the note into his pocket and went home. He thought he understood.

Sitting by his window in the stuffy room that had been his home for years, Nathan drew a great breath of unsweetened air and expelled it with a sigh of relief. A street car clanged by below him. From the next room there came the raucous notes of a radio; the sound of riveting beat a steady tatto in the distance. But Nathan heard nothing at all.

BRAIN BUDGET

1. The Taft-Ike rift was recently widened by Ike's appointment of which: (a) Dulles, (b) Durkin, (c) Aldrich?
2. The Taft faction accuses Ike of being influenced too much by which (a) Harry Truman, (b) Thomas Dewey, (c) Joe McCarthy?
3. According to Truman, Eisenhower is which: (a) a philanthropist, (b) a humanitarian. (c) demagogue?
4. Segregation of school pupils is claimed to be a violation of which Amendment: (a) 13th, (b) 12th, (c) 14th?

ANSWERS

1—(b) Durkin; 2—(b) Thomas Dewey; 3—(c) A Demagogue; 4— (c) 14th.

History Of The World

[In One Book]

New children's text gives easy-to-learn method of remembering important historical dates from Stone Age to Atomic Era. Adults find it a great time-saver.

"A Child's History of the World" by V. M. Hillyer (revised and enlarged) published by Appleton - Century - Crofts, Inc., New York.

By JOHN JASPER

Children are required to study the multiplication table until it is known 100 per cent and for keeps.

The late V. M. Hillyer, for many years associated with the Calvert school, selected some 65 important dates in the history of the world beginning with the Bronze Age in 4000 B.C. and ending with 1946.

The entire period covered is 5,946 years.

He calls these 65 dates a time table to be learned like the multiplication table.

His aim, he says, is to have the pupil start with Primitive Man and "give a summary of World History to the present time, with dates and chief events without prompting, questioning, hesitation or mistake."

It is not as difficult as it sounds, he says and adds hundreds of his pupils have successfully done this very thing.

Begins With Stone Age

Actually Mr. Hillyer's time table begins with the Stone Age, 7,000 years before Christ when the primitive men talked in grunts like "umfa-umfa" and had names like "Itchy-Scratchy."

FROM PRIMITIVE MAN TO AIRPLANE

Civilization's oldest king we know was Menes in Egypt, 3400 B.C. and he has the generous lips and broad nostrils of the African.

In 2900 Pharoah Cheops built the Egyptian pyramids which required 100,000 men working twenty years to complete.

Not much written history is known therefore earlier than 2900 B.C.

From 4000 B.C. to the birth of Christ, which Mr. Hillyer fixes as the year 4 B.C. rather than 1 A.D. (he says historians made a mistake) there are thirty important dates to be learned. These include:

MENES, 3400 B.C.
King of Egypt

1900 B.C.—Abraham Leaves Ur
1700 B.C.—Israelites go to Egypt
1300 B.C.—Exodus of Israelites from Egypt
1200 B.C.—Trojan War
1100 B.C.—Samuel; Saul
1000 B.C.—Homer, Solomon, Hiram
700 B.C.—Nineveh at the Top
538 B.C.—Fall of Babylon
500 B.C. — Brahmanism, Buddhism, Confucius
336-323 B.C.—Alexander the Great
55-54 B.C.—Conquest of Britain
44 B.C.—Death of Julius Caesar
4 B.C.—Birth of Christ

In years since the birth of Christ, Mr Hillyer lists 33 dates to be memorized including such important events as:

79 A.D.—Pompeii destroyed
323 A.C.—Constantine
800 A.D.—Charlemagne of America
1100 A.D.—Crusades (8 of them)
1215 A.D.—King John; Magna Charta
1300 A.C. — Marco Polo's marvelous visit to China
1440 A.D. — Invention of Printing
1492 A.D.—Columbus Discovers America
1500 A.D.—The Reformation
The Renaissance
Henry VIII
Queen Elizabeth
1600 A.D.—Shakespeare
1776 A.D.—American Revolution
1800 A.D.—Napoleon
1861 A.D. Civil War
1914-18—World War I
1939-45—World War II
1946—United Nations

It isn't merely that this book gives a time table of important dates, Hillyer's book is divided into 86 stories of 5 or 6 pages each, with such easily remembered titles as:

The Tomb-Builders (Egyptians
Kings with Corkscrew Curls (Assyrians)
A City of Wonder and Wickedness (Babylon)
A Camel-Driver (Mohammed)
A Magic Needle and a Magic Powder (Invention of compass and gunpowder)
James the Servant (James I of England, first of the Stuarts—Stuart means servant)
Red Cap and Red Heel. Red cap, Cardinal Richelieu. Red Heels was Louis XIV of France
A Little Giant is Napoleon Upside Down—deals with the French Revolution
Fighting the Toughs—is the story of World War II

Here is real history told as enchantingly as Arabian Nights and it provides a connected story of what we know about our world.

Here is Confucius 500 years before Christ teaching children to obey their parents and teachers, and to honor their ancestors. This sounds something like one of the Ten Commandments — "Honor thy father and thy mother."

"Confucius also taught the Golden Rule you are taught today, only instead of saying—"Do unto others as you would be done by," he said "Do not do to others what you wouldn't want others to do to you."

Here are Babylonians writing by punching sticks into soft clay and letting it harden (cuneiform) (chicken tracks). The Egyptians carved their history on stone or wrote on papyrus.

Here is Alexander the Great conquering the whole world in 13 years and building on the island of Pharos, Egypt, a lighthouse, 30 stories high.

This was one of the seven wonders of the world like the Greek Phidias statue of Jupiter, the Pyramids of Egypt and the Hanging Gardens of Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon.

The Barbarians

The Goths, Vandals and Huns who sacked Rome are called gangs of toughs, Mug Mikes and gas house gangs.

There is the story of the Arabs, who gave the world coffee for the first time; alcohol, although their religion forbids them to drink it; cotton cloth, knives and swords so sharp they could cut through a hair of steel or sever the finest hair if floated on water.

Arabs were the people who invented chess and made the first clocks with pendulums.

The years 500 to 1000 are called the Dark Ages by historians.

But while it was true that cultured Rome was destroyed and barbarians from Germany, France and Russia ruled Europe, the Orient was ablaze with the Mohammedans conquering the Near East and the Mediterranean and taking over Spain and Portugal and the Chinese whose civilization was perhaps the finest in the world.

There is the story of the people of Oberammergau in Germany beset by a deadly contagious disease, the plague praying that if they were spared they would give a play of Christ's life every 10 years.

Pompeii Excavations

Another deals with the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 A.D. destroying the town of Pompeii, Italy, and of scientists removing the ashes after nearly 2,000 years to find houses, pots, pans, dishes, beds, chairs, beans, peas and one egg unbroken just as it was when it was destroyed.

On one house was the sign—"Cave Canem" which means "Look out for the dog."

Here's one about a great artist.

The Pope commissioned Michaelangelo to decorate the ceiling of his private Sistine Chapel. It took him four year. He locked himself in and seldom left it. He wanted to be alone to study, think and paint.

The Pope felt himself a privileged character and dropped in to see how the work was coming along.

Michaelangelo accidentally dropped some of his tools, and they barely missed the Pope's head. The Pope was very angry but he never returned unvited again.

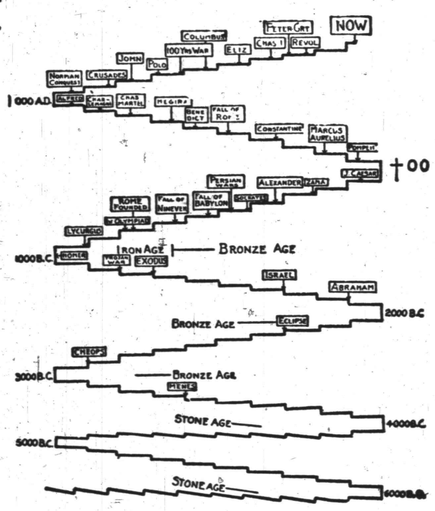
Now people come from all over the world to see this beautiful ceiling.

The King's Wives

Everybody should remember Henry VIII, King of England. He had six wives. The first wife he divorced, the second he beheaded, the third died. The same thing happened to his last three wives. The first he divorced, the second he beheaded the third died, but Henry died before she did.

If 9 year olds are to be weaned from those terrible comic books, Hillyer's Child's History of the World is one book to give Junior.

And start off by reading a chapter every night to him until he can pick it up for himself.



THE STAIRCASE OF TIME

What To Do About Adopting War Babies

Mabel Alston Grammer sends advice from Germany about the CORRECT way to become a foster parent to cute little German-born boys and girls. Some Americans do more harm than good.

Pretty little Juanita Scholich's mother is anxious for some nice American family to adopt her daughter so that the tot will have a better break in life. Mabel Grammer warns would-be foster parents that there is a right and a wrong way to go about it. See article on this page.

By MABEL A GRAMMER

MANNHEIM -FEUDENHEIM, Germany— There are 3,100 brown German - American children in Germany. If AFRO readers are patient, and meet the qualifications of the State Department and the German authorities, it is possible to have such a youngster in your home.

As long as I am in Germany I shall work faithfully to try to give a new life to these deserving children. The people who desire children must also do their part and adhere strictly to the following instructions:

1. If you are interested in a child and request that it resemble some member of the family, then send a photo. This may require entirely too much time and I cannot promise that you will get an answer to your letter. I am interested in finding families who are childless and are interested in giving a youngster love and a new start in life regardless of his family resemblance.

I must elaborate on the above because I have had letters with several pages requesting to know about the intelligence of the child, the color of the eyes, whether the hair is good and all about the mother, father etc. One lady went so far as to give a description of the kind of nose the child should have so that it would correspond with her own child.

To the women who write letters saying that they wish a child because they do not care to have any more of their own, I would suggest that they try an agency in America because I positively will not even try to send a child into a home where a woman could become a mother but who for reasons of her own desires not to. You are wasting your time writing to me.

2. If it is possible to get affidavits of support from the State Department or Immigration Authorities then by all means do so. They must be filled out in triplicate, two for the State Department and one for the German authorities. If you cannot obtain them then send directly to me 7 Arndtstrasse - Mannheim - Feudenheim, Germany, through the German post.

I will try to send them to you but you must also inclose postage because it is impossible for me to pay postage for the hundreds of letters requesting replies. I also receive letters from all over the world, and hundreds from German women asking that I find homes for their babies.

Send Correct Papers

The affidavits of support must be filled correctly and notarized by notary with seal. It must be signed by the husband and wife and not just the wife. At the very bottom of the document on the last page where proof is requested of bank deposits, employment etc., it is absolutely necessary that these be sent in triplicate.

It is of the utmost importance that these papers accompany the affidavits of support and be correct in every detail, if not the State department will turn your request down.

To submit others will require two or more trips by the child to the Consulate in Frankfurt, Germany and that will involve transportation which is very expensive here in Germany. Be sure to include character references.

3. I am at present trying to develop better ways to help get the children to America with the help of a German agency. Probably the expense will be less or maybe greater. More about this later. At present one must set aside about $150 for visa and other necessary expense. The child must be placed in St. Joseph Kinderheim where its health and welfare in general will be cared for until time for the physical examination at the Consulate.

For food, clothing, medical care etc., the cost per month is 80 DM (approximately $20). The Scandinavian Airlines will bring the children to America at present for half fare. They will contact the sponsor as soon as the visa has been issued. The sponsors will also have to go to New York for the children.

4. **Please do not write and request information for a child unless you are a property owner. If you are single and can get authorization from your welfare organization that you will be permitted to adopt the child, then by all means write. The family income must be over $200 per month.**

If you are in a great hurry for a child then please don't write, for the United States Consulate cannot be hurried.

The AFRO will do what it can to help its readers find a youngster for a childless home, but it is advisable to get the AFRO every week, and if you think that you are able to meet the requirements clip out the picture of the child you desire and write immediately.

I will also have to answer many letters through the AFRO as it is impossible for me to answer the many letters, therefore I must include many of your queries etc., in an article.

Please make your letters as brief as possible and be sure to include postage for a reply. It is also important that you are familiar with the adopton laws of your state and can meet the requirements of same.

Answers Mr. Walker

The following letter is one that requires an extensive answer therefore I am answering it here. Much of the information will be beneficial to AFRO readers who are probably faced with the same problem as Mr. and Mrs. Alonzo Walker.

The letter:

Mrs. Alston:

"Don't allow yourself to be kidded, America doesn't want the brown babies either.

"It is hard for a colored couple to adopt one. On or about March 25, 1950, the AFRO carried an article "Want To Adopt A Baby? Here's How," and with it were pictures of five German war orphans. My wife and I wrote the orphanage in Germany asking permission to adopt three brown babies.

"The orphanage authorities readily agreed, sending us the necessary papers. They consented to retain the children in the orphanage for two years for us while we penetrate the American red tape.

"We applied to the DPB (Displaced Persons Bureau) here and were told that they knew nothing about the adoption of German war orphans and didn't know where to advise us to go. We took the matter to Washington, unraveling and hurdling one obstacle after another. After being accepted by the DPB in Washington, D.C., and supplied with a number we were referred to the office to which we first applied, which office made the final decision in the negative, because as they state "we were too old."

"We paid for the adoption of the children, which took place in Germany and all papers were completed by our lawyer there. There is one child left, the others being adopted by German families and this child will have to wait to come in on the quota act of DBP and not under the non-quota act for children which will make it a long, long, time.

"She may be 10 or 15 years old by that time. She will be 5 years old in December, 1952. We have already sent her a birthday and Xmas box.

"If the AFRO could aid us in any way we would be grateful."

My reply follows:

Mr. Walker: Unless laws are changed in Germany, a family residing in America cannot adopt a child in Germany. However, it is possible to sponsor the child to the U.S. for adoption. This has been done in the case of the first two children the AFRO helped to sponsor.

Now I wish to elaborate on the statement. Don't allow yourself to be kidded, America doesn't want the brown babies either as it is hard for a colored couple to adopt one."

Janosch Monsee smiles at a chance to come to America.

Another German tot is Samford Reimenschneider.
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The statement is in error. I can truthfully write that many people expect for these children to be wrapped in cellophane and sent to them by spending only a few dollars.

Embarrassing Experience

To be more specific, I will tell you of one of the most embarrassing experiences I have had since coming to Germany. I had a letter from a family who seemed to be honestly interested in sponsoring a child to the States for adoption.

I sent them the affidavits of support explaining to them about the papers, expenses etc. They failed to correctly fill out the affidavits and to send in the other necessary papers requested at the bottom of the document, and not one word about the expense money.

Because I wanted the child to have a better future, I went ahead and paid for the papers and sent them to the family. I sent a letter and another set of affidavits of support explaining that they must send both documents back and also the necessary papers requested on the last page of the papers.

They returned the affidavits of support but not the other necessary papers. Again I sent a letter requesting that they send the papers immediately to the Consulate. The child was elated when I notified her mother that she was to go to the Consulate on a certain date and if everything went well and the papers were in order, I would pay for the visa myself.

Unfortunately the family failed to send in the necessary papers, therefore the child was refused a visa. The child being 6 years old and able to understand was heartbroken.

Finally after several weeks, I received a $10 money order for the visa and a request that I send the child by plane, not one word about the expense money for the air transportation. The visa by that time had been increased to $25 but the family still failed to send in the papers required by the Consulate.

I had to return the $10 money order and again request the necessary papers and explain about the expense involved in sending the child to America. I have not heard another word.

Now what will the people at the Consulate think? What will the German authorities think when the mother requests that the consent to this family be cancelled because the necessary papers were never sent to the Consulate? What will the child and her mother think about such an attitude in a family which claims to be interested in a child?

Every legal paper, and meal, railroad and taxi fare, and postage cost dearly but not one penny came from this family.

A Typical Situation

Maybe you will say that this is just one family, but the above applies to many more I have had hundreds of letters to answer, but just two people enclosed stamped envelopes for a reply, a lady in Bell Buckle, Tenn., and one in England.

I can understand readily now why the German agencies fail to follow through on many cases.

Another family I thought deserving and am trying to get a child to America for writes:

"I mailed you twenty-five dollars three weeks ago. I also asked if you would send a picture of the child. I do hope that it won't be too long before she will get here for that much money is a lot nowadays."

This family did not send one penny for the papers, not one stamp for a reply, nothing for transportation back and forth to the Consulate in Frankfurt, Germany, but they explained that twenty-five dollars, (that is the cost of a visa) is a lot of money nowadays.

To this family, I sent the affidavits of support with specific instructions as to the completion of same and also to return the necessary papers in duplicate on the bottom of the last page.

The affidavits of support were returned without the Notary seal, and not one paper requested by the State Department was sent to me I had to send another set of affidavits of the support and because of the weight and the high rate of the German postage (which is faster) spend 16DM ($4) on the two letters. Yet these individuals write that they are interested in a child.

The letter continued:

"Since the children need homes so desperately, it shouldn't be too much trouble to get them here if people want them."

That is just why the State Department and German authorities are anxious to have all

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