

Royal African Prince Visits In River Rouge With Classmates

SAYS AMERICAN GIRLS ARE "OUT OF CONTROL"

By Isaac Jones
(Courtesy Detroit Tribune)

A Royal African Prince is visiting in Greater Detroit.

He is Prince Chukuka Ezenekwe, of Nanka-Awka, a province in Nigeria, West Africa. He is household guest of Bernard Bridges, Jr., 460 Beechwood, River Rouge, Mich.

Both youths are pre-medical students at Howard University, Washington, D.C. Prince Ezenekwe

came to River Rouge to spend his summer vacation at the invitation of his friend and classmate.

Friday evening, this writer interviewed Prince Chukuka Ezenekwe, and got his impression about the customs of the American people.

To America in '45

A thumb-nail sketch of the early life of the Royal Prince revealed that he was born in Nanka-Awka, Nigeria, West Africa. He received his education at the Government schools, Asaba, Hope-Waddell Institute, Callar, West Africa and Dennis Memorial Grammar School, Onitsha, West Africa.

He graduated in 1945, and came to America in 1947, entered Howard University, Washington, D.C., to study medicine.

The Royal Prince is the son of Awankwo Ezenekwe, 42. He is the ruler of all the Ahoada district, in West Africa. It is a large area, composed of about 24,000 natives.

King Ezenekwe is also manager of the United African Company, at Ahoada, West Africa.

His mother is Queen Dorothy Kanene Ezenekwe, 39 years of age.

The Prince has two sisters, Felicia Ezenekwe, 24, nurse and midwife in a hospital at Iyi Enu Ogid in Nigeria, and 5 month-old Kanene Ezenekwe.

When we asked Your Royal Highness for his impression of America and its people, he wrote the answer himself. I am quoting directly:

"My first impression of America was seen at New York City. This city indeed is very wonderful, and is far beyond what I had imagined. The most astonishing features are the skyscrapers, which stand out in the air as peaks of high mountains, like the Cameron Mountains in Nigeria."

"Lastly, my impression centered on the complete absence of beggars and blind men on the streets."

The American Girls vs. The African Girls

When asked about the American girls, Prince Ezenekwe laughed and said, "The American colored girls have too many boy friends: they have adopted western culture and lost all of their African qualities: they are hard working, independent, and unassuming. Many of them do not take marriage seriously." The Prince continued—"the American Negro girls dress in the white man's fashions; use too much makeup—and they are out of control."

The Prince said the African girls differ from the American girls of color, in many respects. For instance, "they dress in African fashion; makeup is not extremely essential; the African girls are not very independent. Most of the girls do not go to school, but prepare themselves for marriage instead."

Advocates Closer Bonds

Prince Ezenekwe, who is also a brilliant public speaker, advocated a closer relationship between the colored people of America and our ancestors in Africa.

He urges those who have the means to visit Africa, and find out for themselves, how false some of the rumors are that have circulated in this country about Africans.

"I want it understood that we have many educated people in Africa. We have some business people, too, but we need many more."

"Detroit is the greatest city in the world from a standpoint of manufacturing and wages, but some parts of it are smoky and dirty."

Impressed With Visit to Canada

Prince Ezenekwe said he was very much impressed with his visit to Windsor, Ontario, Canada, last week.

"I liked the manner in which the Canadians entertained their British subjects."

They arranged my visit and made it a pleasure."

The Prince who speaks two native dialects, Ibo and Yoruba, plans to return to West Africa and practice medicine after completing his pre-medical studies at Howard University. He will finish about 1953. When he returns to Nigeria, the Prince plans to open a clinic. He is going to put special interest on tropical diseases.

The Prince is a member of the Church of England.

Bernard Bridges, Jr., and the Prince became friends after they met in Howard University. He is the son of Officer Bernard Bridges, of the River Rouge Police Department and Mrs. Gladys Bridges.

PERRY WRITES SNYDER ABOUT NAME LISTING

WASHINGTON—The Treasury Department's practice of reserving the designation, 'American,' for white citizens alone has been challenged by Leslie Perry of the NAACP Washington bureau in a letter to John W. Snyder, Secretary of the Treasury.

The Department's Bureau of Customs has sent out the following instructions for forms required of all Americans seeking passage for foreign travel:

"Native-born citizens of the United States of all caucasian or white races, departing for permanent residence in a foreign country, should be recorded by race as 'American.' Other native-born citizens of the United States, viz: African (black), Chinese, Japanese . . . should be classed under their respective designations."

"From a fair reading of this instruction," Mr. Perry wrote "one would conclude that if you were born in the United States and are white, you are an American. But, if you are a Negro you are only a 'black'."

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