

# Bilalian News

32

JULY 22, 1977

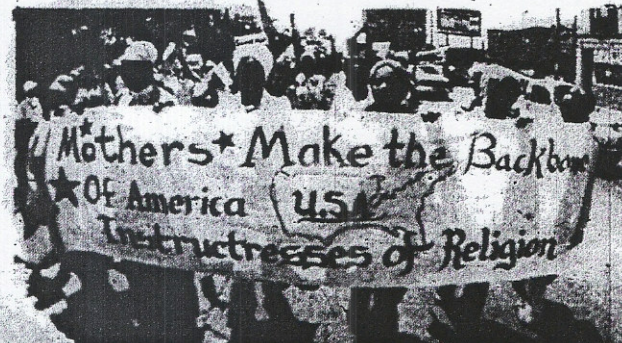
## 'New World Patriotism Day': A gala celebration



MEMBERS FROM THE cast of "The Oz" wave to on-lookers along the parade route.



FOR AS FAR as the eye can see the street was filled with parade participants as shown here passing reviewing platform.



A SIGN of the times.

Photo by W.A. Johnson

By Abdul Seifullah

Perhaps nowhere in the United States over the July 4 holiday week was more 'genuine patriotism' exhibited than in the World Community of Al-Islam in the West.

Highlighted by an address by Emam Wallace D. Muhammad, spiritual leader of the W.C.I.W. in which he admonished his followers that "America is the greatest land on earth," an array of activities preceded and followed as Muslims throughout the country joined in the celebration of the first "New World Patriotism Day."

In Chicago, center for "New World Patriotism Day," activities began with a childrens production of "The Oz," a take-off on "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz," the preceding Thursday, culminating with a grand parade down Stony Island Avenue and an all-day picnic on The Fourth.

Hundreds of Muslims and well-wishers turned out for the parade which at one point extended nearly a mile in length over an approximate one and one-half mile route. Among the marchers was Emam Muhammad.

Led by a contingent of Chicago Mounted Police, parade participants included bands, drill teams, fire trucks, autos mounted with signs, and included senior citizens with walking canes to babies in strollers. Several on-lookers along the route joined in.

Once the marchers reached the



WITH BALL AND GLOVE in hand Sheikh James Abdel-Aziz Shabazz is ready to play ball.

park where the picnic was to follow, several were content to sit in the shade of the trees, sipping fruit and vegetable juices, enjoying their food, and watching others with energy left over for baseball, football, volleyball, karate demonstrations, fun and games.

The picnic provided the climactic occasion to five days of events that included workshops, plays, exhibits, lectures and banquets, all in a spirit of patriotism, unity and goodwill.

In subsequent weeks Bilalian News will feature photos and stories of "New World Patriotism Day" activities from other regions of the country as that information becomes available. Send any photos and information to Bilalian News in care of "New World Patriotism Day."



EMAM WALLACE D. MUHAMMAD and Sister Varwada, a family from Detroit, lead a delegation of parade marchers.