It wasn't South Atlantic, says President Leidig

Fred Leidig, president, South Atlantic Association of the AAU, was interviewed about discrimination against colored swimmers in the forthcoming Junior Olympics. The interview follows:

Q—What's the story on this swimming meet coming up Saturday at Patterson Park pool?

A—What's that?

Q—I understand the Druid Hill team received an application and later on was advised it shouldn't go out there.

A—Well, I don't know. I don't have anything to do with it. It is held by the Exchange Club of Baltimore.

Q—I understand it was the South Atlantic Association, that's what Mr. Callowhill said.

A—Well, it is under the AAU but the Exchange Club does the promoting.

Q—Who can I contact at the Exchange Club?

A—You call Millard Lang. I don't know his phone number. He works at Westinghouse. I don't know his address.

Q—He is the only one I can reach?

A—That's right.

Q—Mr. Callowhill said that it was run as a co-sponsored thing by the Exchange Club and the South Atlantic AAU, and we are anxious to get this straightened out because the AAU has long since discontinued any policy of segregation.

A—Well if there is anything on that pool down there, it's a question that they (colored swimmers) can't go into the pool, that's all. That's been a long standing rule.

Until the Park Board changes that rule, then we can't hold the meet down there with any people other than the people that they want in them.

Q—You mean by that then, that the South Atlantic Association of the AAU is going to condone this type of discrimination?

A—We will abide by the ruling of the Park Board, sure.

Q—Then you are not going to consider the discontinuance of anything that smacks of segregation, in spite of the fact that it is being done all over the country?

A—I don't think we should say that. We wouldn't say that. We wouldn't say that we are not going to do anything about that. No.

Q—I don't get your answer. I am asking you if the South Atlantic plans to continue to sponsor segregated affairs despite the fact that it has been discontinued all over the country?

A—Well, no, we don't say that. We say they can play and do anything they want together, any way they want but when there is a limitation as to a place to play, we have got to abide by what facilities we are using.

Q—I understand that even though you are with the Bureau of Recreation that you are also the president of the AAU organization here. Is that right?

A—That's right.

Q—Over you there is somebody else in the AAU. Who is your immediate supervisor?

A—The AAU is a volunteer organization which elects its members nationally and elects its members locally, in each district.

Q—Yes, I understand that, but they have a policy, pretty general, and they have agreed as a policy of the AAU they will not draw the color line in athletics. I understand that policy isn't something for the local people to say they will do or will not do. Do you understand it that way?

A—That's the way we operate it.

Q—If they have cut it out, I want to know how we can have an AAU-sponsored meet here that puts it back in.

A—Well, we cannot go into any city pool with any mixed people swimming. We can't send anybody in the colored pool, no more than we can send colored people in the white pool.

Q—I understand that too. But you can't have an outdoor meet violating your own rules and policy. You can't just go ahead and run right straight in the face of the AAU. I don't think you can, now maybe you can, I don't know.

A—This meet is put on by the Exchange Club. The AAU sanctions the meet. The Exchange Club goes and asks for the use of the pool and the pool people tell them that they can only use certain people in the pool.

Q—The "pool people" is your Department of Recreation?

A—It is the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Q—Isn't that the same thing?

A—The same thing.

Q—If you have the meet at Patterson Park, then that violates the AAU policy. So we have only got one question: Is the AAU policy going to operate or isn't it?

A—We are going to operate the AAU here as it is operated all over the country. That's the answer from the AAU.

But when the facilities aren't there and a sponsoring organization like the Exchange Club or like any club throughout the city would want to put on an event, or they have their own facilities; if they want to put it on at Meadowbrook or if they want to put it on at Gibson Island, they are going to keep out the people that they don't want in there.

The same way if Meadowbrook has a meet, they are going to put the people in there. It is a sanctioned AAU meet regardless. We can sanction any meet. It doesn't matter. And if Gibson Island wants to put on one, or Southern River Swimmers wants to put on one for Southern River Swimmers, that's what it will be.

Q—I see. But this doesn't happen to be a private club like Southern River, etc., this is a citywide meet, part of a Junior Olympics program.

A Private Group

A—The sponsoring organization is the Baltimore Exchange Club and they are a private group, just a civic group, that's all. The same way there are many groups like that. The Kiwanis and Veterans of Foreign Wars, they could have any kind of meet they want and we would sponsor it. We sponsored the Veterans of Foreign Wars' boxing show. They put in the meet who they wanted to put in it.

Q—They could, but I understand that if the AAU sponsors it they must not draw the color line.

A—This is not AAU sponsored; this is sanctioned by the AAU.

Q—I see. You are going to work on this job on city's time and in the city's office — your work of preparing this meet?

A—I don't have anything to do with that meet. This is done by the Baltimore Exchange Club. The chairman of this meet and the meet director is Ray Yerson.

As a secretary of the Maryland Official Club, I sent notices out to these people to ask them to be officials in this meet. They replied and we sent out notices to these people, asking them to be there, that's all.

Q—How did you happen to send one to the YWCA?

A—This is for the officials. I don't send anything to the YMCA or YWCA. I told you I don't have anything to do with the meet. I don't have—I have entry blanks here. Anybody who comes in, I give them to anybody. It doesn't matter to me. I mean, anyone could come in and ask for an entry blank.

Q—I think the only thing we need to do is to say that we deeply regret the fact that the Bureau of Recreation and Parks and anybody connected with it, under these circumstances, has anything to do with an athletic event in public parks where the color line is drawn.

A—There isn't any place in the parks where they swim together, is it?

Q—But you have invited these people to come out?

Exchange Club Invite

A—I haven't invited them. The Baltimore Exchange Club has invited them. If anybody has invited them. Not me. Not me personally, and not the South Atlantic. If they have invited them to come out, it is up to them to explain why they can't go in there.

Q—I see. The weight goes on them. You ought not to have anything to do with it. All of the taxpayers' money goes to support the Board of Recreation and Parks.

A—This isn't a Bureau of Recreation activity.

Q—It is a Bureau of Recreation and Parks activity because they are taking it over and you are sanctioning it.

A—The Bureau of Recreation is not the South Atlantic. If the Bureau of Recreation were sponsoring it and we were having our own meet, we would have our own meet the same way we are having it now. There is a meet going on up in the Druid Hill Pool on the 5th of August and that's a municipal meet, and we just had another one which was sponsored by the Bureau of Recreation at the Clifton Pool and that was the 23rd or 22nd of July. So there are two meets that we sponsored and they are sanctioned by the AAU also.

Q—You have another meet coming off, the Junior Olympics consisting of track and field work. Is that right?

A—That's right.

Q—Where is that going to be held?

A—At Clifton Park.

Q—You have only white participant in that?

A—No, I think there is both participants in that. But there is facility for them to run out there. They allow, them to run in there.

Q—They allow them to run in there, but they don't allow them to swim is that correct?

A—Thats the ruling of the Board. You know that ruling, you are aware of that ruling as well as anyone.

Q—I am not aware of that because it is so silly. I am not aware of any such rule which says that people cant swim together.

Q—They have done it here now.

Q—They have done it here now. They have swum together at the park beaches for a good long period last summer.

In the Bureau of Parks and Recreation, they are not swimming in the same pool.

Q—The YWCA tells us that this invitation came from the Bureau of Recreation so whoever it came from it is a matter of record up there and all we have to do

A—Well you find out who gave them those blanks and look at those blanks and see who is the sponsoring agency on there.

Q—I know, but who is giving out the blanks? That's what I want to know.

A—I tell you where some of them were given out. They were put out in loaves of bread they tell me. Mr. Crosley came in and said he got one out of a loaf of bread. So you had better go too after who put them in the loaf of bread.

AMONG THOSE BARRED—Because sponsors of the Junior Olympics swimming meet are unwilling to abide by the nationwide policy of integration, swimmers like Lifeguard George Sutton will be barred from the Patterson Park competitions tomorrow (Saturday). Colored swimmers, officials say, will have to wait until the "colored" Junior Olympics meet is held next Saturday at the Druid Hill pool.

Swimmers can't

(Continued From Page 1)

would be denied admittance if it presented itself at Patterson Park for the Saturday meet.

— o O o —

AT THE SAME TIME, the bureau director declared that his office had nothing to do with the promotion of the meet. He asserted that the South Atlantic Association and the Exchange Club were jointly responsible for its conduct.

Efforts throughout the day to reach the Rev. Mr. Waters were unavailable throughout the day (Thursday).

Callowhill referred the AFRO to Fred Leidig, a Recreation Bureau employee who is president of the South Atlantic AAU.

Leidig also denied responsibility for the discrimination. He said the fault, if any, belonged to the Exchange Club.

— o O o —

MILLARD LANG, president of the Exchange Club, was unavailable for comment. All attempts to reach him were futile.

A Thursday release from the Exchange Club announced that Mayor Thomas D'Alesandro had issued a proclamation declaring the week beginning July 31, as "Junior Olympics Week" for the city of Baltimore.

When the AFRO sought to question the Mayor concerning his official blessing to the jim-crow swimming meet, he was "not in."

Unable to contact the Mayor, the AFRO asked his executive secretary, Thomas Carr, whether he wished to make a statement in connection with the matter. His reply was a curt: "no comment."

In the meantime, the Druid Hill's aggregation and others like the one representing the Chick Webb Center, must wait until August 7, when the "colored" swimming meet will be put on at Druid Hill pool.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

GOLDSBORO, N.C. — A marriage license was issued here recently to Ray J. Williams and Miss Catherine M. Hines, both of this city.

Recreation Bureau not responsible, says Callowhill

Interview with Harold S. Callowhill, director of the Bureau of Recreation:

Q—The information has come to us that the colored Druid Hill YMCA team will not take part in the Patterson Park meet which opens the Junior Olympics week in Baltimore.

A—Yes, I understand so—the reason, of course, is the old long-standing one.

Q—Well, what reason is that?

A—Well, that the pools are not integrated.

Q—What about Judge Thomsen's ruling Tuesday?

A—Well, he didn't say one way or the other. He said that Sandy Point and Fort Smallwood were okay to continue with a segregated policy as I read the story, but he wanted to take another look at the Baltimore City pool situation, wasn't that it?

Q—Well, now are we right in assuming that you have advised the Druid Hill boys not to go to Patterson Park? We understand they received an invitation to come over there.

A—Well, the fact is this: If a colored boy will go to Patterson Park today or tomorrow, on the day of the swimming meet, and ask to get into the swimming pool, he would be denied admission. Right?

A Closing House

Q—Well, now just a moment. As we understand it, they've received an invitation to participate in the meet.

A—Well, I don't know who invited them. Do you?

REPLY—No, we don't, but my understanding is that the application forms were sent to the YMCA from the Bureau of Recreation.

A—Well, the Bureau of Recreation in this particular instance is really a clearing house. You see the meet is not being run by us.

"The South Atlantic Association of the AAU is running the meet. The Bureau of Recreation is not running it.

And all the City of Baltimore is doing is providing the pool.

We have nothing officially to do with the event. If the invitation went out from this office—you see — the situation here is this: Fred Leidig is the president of the AAU. He is also an employee of ours. So that may be where the idea got abroad that we were running the meet.

Interviewer—I see. Well the fact the application forms of the invitations, whatever they might be called, went out from your office, wouldn't that indicate that your office is planning to have something to do with the conduct of the meet?

Up To AAU

Mr. Callowhill—That's correct. We cooperate—some of our people serve as officials, but if any decision is to be made in any way, shape of form concerning the meet, we do not make it. It remains with the AAU.

Q—As far as the Bureau of Recreation is concerned, the local pools are still being operated on a segregated basis.

A—Well, you see the Bureau of Recreation does not operate the pools. The Department of Recreation of Parks, of course, has charge of the entire public recreation facilities, but the Bureau of Parks operates the pool. The Bureau of Recreation merely holds swimming classes and conducts competitive meets, etc. But the pools are operated and manned by the Bureau of Parks as far as the management, lockers attendants, life guards and the control of the pools themselves are concerned.

Q—Oh, yes, we know that. But actually then the Bureau of Recreation had nothing whatsoever to do with advising — they had no right to advise the Druid Hill YMCA to refrain from going to Patterson Park.

A—I talked to John Henderson, as one man to another, and told him that as far as I know there had been no change in policy regarding the segregation of the pools of the city.

So John said, well, he didn't want to have the boys embarrassed. So I said, well, what I know, you know, I would feel sure that the boys would be embarrassed. He said that some man from the Exchange Club had told him the boys would be admitted. I told his I was sure the man had incorrect information.

Thomsen Ruling

Q—Well now, we hope that your recreation isn't going to stop proceeding along the line to integration as rapidly as possible. There are two things you must know: (1) That Judge Thomsen's ruling is absolutely contrary to that of four other federal judges who ruled on this case, and that since, then in Southern states, too.

A—Yeah.

Q—We can tell you the second thing, that anytime a man takes 31 pages to say something that Judge Warren said in eight, that it isn't worth much. He talks too much and too long. He's a new judge and he's afraid of himself and he wants to make good—all of these things enter into it. So that's pure hog-wash! So that we hope that since the Supreme Court has established the principle that segregation is wrong, and of course, it is, Judge Thomsen said it all applies to education. Of course that's not true because the housing people have conferred universally.

A—That's right.

Q—All around the country.

A—That's right.

Q—So that it doesn't apply simply to education. Now, we would like to suggest as a policy that the Board of Recreation participate in nothing unless there is equal opportunity for everybody, because when it gets to the Supreme Court, we know what they're going to do with it.

A—Well, you know I only work here. I have to carry out the policies handed down by the board. Mr. Brown and I, can't make the policy.

Q—Who does make it?

A—Well, you know, the Board of Recreation of Parks — they make the policies as far as our board is concerned and we carry out those policies. That's all, that's been the situation ever since I've been here. The PAL Board in the early days made the policies and we had to carry them out.

Q—That's true, but is the board aware of the fact that the Exchange Club can't operate anything and did the only way it can operate it is to call on you through your people?

A—No, we don't operate it.

Q—Who'll operate it?

A—The AAU is operating. See, this is a Junior Olympics, which is part of a program of the AAU, and the AAU and the Exchange Club are joined together in promoting this thing.

Leidig An Employee

Now, the only reason that we're drawn into it as a Bureau is because Fred Leidig, who is one of our employees in the athletic situation, is president of the AAU for this term, and as president of the AAU, he is involved in these Junior Olympics.

And if the blanks were mailed out from our office, it was merely because he has a desk here, etc. But the Bureau, as such, has no more to do with the Junior Olympics than the AFRO-AMERICAN has.

Now, some of our employees will volunteer to serve as officials, timers, judges, things of that sort. But if some decision is to be made with regard to the operation of the meet, itself, we don't get into it. It's an AAU thing entirely.

Q—Now let me ask you this, Mr. Callowhill. Won't they be doing it . . . Aren't they now doing it on City time?

A—On the city's what?

Q—On the city's time?

A—No, Mr. Leidig is doing it on his own time. They volunteer. Lots of time we have men—you know—the butcher, the baker, the candlestick maker act as the timer and the judge.

We don't run the meet. We don't run the meet at all. The City of Baltimore has given the AAU and the Exchange Club the use of the pool—that's all the further the City has gotten into it.

Q—Don't they take it—do your people stop their work on those days and go ahead and do this work?

A—Stop from doing their work?

Q—Yes, on Aug. 7 for example.

A—No, we're not making any assignments with hour paid employees to this swimming meet on city time. If they go, they're going on their own personal time.

High Mason dies on eve of ceremony

Samuel O. Major, 78, in New York on July 29 to get an honorary 33rd degree in Masonry, died at the home of his stepdaughter, Miss Frances Walker in Brooklyn, N.Y.

He was a native of Nassau, Palm Beach, Fla. at 16.

Eleven children survive, including David E. Major, AFRO pressman and Mrs. Marion Brooks, both of Baltimore.

TERRIFIC RESPONSE!

...says Mrs. Lucille Branch

This little ad:

ROOM UNFURNISHED — Newly decorated, modern apartment. Suitable for quiet couple. Hot water furnished. Heat. Water.

Produced over 20 results. I had my choice of tenants for only $1.50 and no wasted time.

Why not let a powerful little AFRO Classified work for you? You can run a 15-word ad 3 times for as 60 cents or $1.50 for six insertions.

Place ads for Tuesday's Paper BEFORE 11 A.M. Monday.

Call Miss Marion
MU. 5-6016
Baltimore Afro-American

Offices and Stores of the GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY WILL BE CLOSED On SATURDAYS During July and August

Emergency Calls for Service will be given prompt attention

Call MUlberry 5-0123

don't just ask for bourbon...

ask for Bourbon de Luxe

KENTUCKY BLENDED BOURBON WHISKEY

$1.39 1/2 PT.

$4.32 4/5 QUART

86 Proof. 51% Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey, 49% Grain Neutral Spirits. The Bourbon de Luxe Company, Louisville, Kentucky

Pests ROSE Termites

EXTERMINATOR CO.

PEST CONTROL SINCE 1860

SA. 7-6118 SA. 7-6118

22 W. Franklin St., Baltimore 1, Md.

DR. H. BUCKNER

DENTIST

1506 Penna. Ave.

2nd floor

LA. 3-2909

Save Money . . . get it at

ROBINSON'S

CUT-RATE DRUG STORE

2139 PENNA. AVE. MA. 3-5879 - 1347

FREE PLASTIC WALLET with each purchase of JERIS HAIR TONIC BOTH FOR 53c

GOLD CROWN GIN $2.86 full 5th

FREE 43c Tube PEPSODENT Chlorophyl Tooth Paste with each purchase of Giant Size BOTH FOR 69c

$1.00 WOODBURY Shaving Cream CASTILE SHAMPOO 50c

RUBBING ALCOHOL 11c pint

$1.00 VETO CREAM DEODORANT 50c

MELODY CLUB WINES Pint 40c 5th 63c Your choice: Port, Muscatel, Sherry, or Apple. Get on the Band Wagon with Melody.

OLD MILL STRAIGHT BOURBON WHISKEY $3.25 full 5th

SCOTCH WHISKEY Your Choice. White Horse, Vat 69, Haig & Haig, Black & White. $5.25 full 5th

ROBINSON'S ONE STORE ONLY

Professionally Proven

The *Penn Optical Service is COMPLETE, embodying the FIVE ALL-IMPORTANT values in eye comfort and visual efficiency - - -

INTELLIGENT CONSULTATION
*SCIENTIFIC EXAMINATION
EXPERT PRESCRIBING
EXPERT FITTING
COURTEOUS SERVICING

PENN OPTICAL CO.

1525 PENNSYLVANIA AVE. LA. 3-6359

520 N. GAY STREET DI. 2-1414

SPECIAL SALE

ALL COTTON DRESSES Reduced $3.95 up

Also Children's Back-to-School DRESSES From $2.95 up

New Accounts Invited

BLUM & SON

1332 W. North Ave.

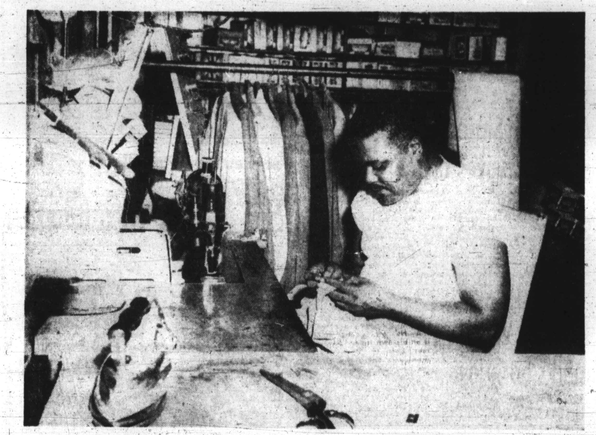
LA. 3-1021

CASH ON ANYTHING—That's what Seymour Sussman, vice president, Northwestern Loan Co., 1701 Pennsylvania Ave., guarantees his customers. Clothing is chief pawn item.

BRICKLAYERS—Working on one of the new 11-story apartment buildings in Lafayette Court are: Carlton Brooks, Glen Burnie; Arthur Patti, 1503 Homestead St., and Eugene King, 846 Edmondson.

A MATTER OF TEETH—Dr. John C. Woodland shows his dental assistant, Mrs. Kathleen Haynes, how he wants her to set up a pair of false teeth. He and brother, George, also dentist, are now at 567 Mosher

AFRO Camera Finds People - at Many Jobs -



FITTING PROPOSITION—Booker Braddy, 1721 Moreland Ave., has been tailor at Northwestern Loan Co. six years. Says he can make clothes to fit anyone be they short or tall.

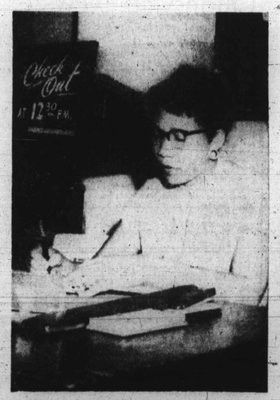
PRIVATE CONTRACTOR—In business for himself for six years, James B. Gray, 40, of 3015 Gwynns Falls Parkway, general contractor, rips out partition in AFRO's editorial office as part of remodeling job.

WOOD COMES FIRST—Before buildings are remodeled, carpenters must lay the basic foundation. Here, carpenters Haywood Woodcherry, 1726 Warren Ave., and Rupert James, 5250 Patrick Henry Drive, lay wood base for porcelain coverage.

BETTER RACE RELATIONS — These Lisle fellowshippers visited here to study race relations: Ingeborg Schwartes, Germany; Melva Alston, Baltimore; Richarad Scott, Boston; Irene Scott, Texas; Linda Schweitzer, New York, and Edith James, Wisconsin.

BUSINESS SLOW — Charles Adler, clerk, at Branch Loan office, 604 W. Baltimore St., says people seem to have more money during the summer. Rush season comes around the holidays. Jewelry is popular pawn item.

SUMMER SESSION—While school is out, Mrs. Virgie Pope, 1803 Bloomingdale St., and Miss Weslene Wallace, 704 W. Saratoga, secretaries at School 116, make out transfer slips for pupils.



BUSY SECRETARY—Mrs. Sherlean Collier, 1307 Argyle Ave., is secretary for Mrs. Evelyn Dixon and Sons' Real Estate office and Comedy Club. She has been employed 18 months. Hubby, James, is chef.

GLASSES THE STYLE—While taking reading on pair of lens, Mrs. Luella Robinson, optician at New Deal Optical Co., 845 N. Howard, debunks theory . . . 'men never make passes at girls who wear glasses.'