CROWN OIL STATION owner Lawrence Bowman is shown with his family, son, Kevin; daughter, Michele, 15 months; Miss Deborah Bowman, daughter; Mrs. Evelyn Bowman, wife and Miss Roselee Bowman, daughter.

Service station co-owner proud of his achievements

"I'm in business to provide all my services to whoever comes in. We can do the job as well as anybody else."

At 44, Lawrence Bowman is the owner-operator of "Bowman's Crown Oil Station" at 2810 Franklin St. since Jan., 1970 and is proud of his accomplishments.

Speaking to the AFRO in a recent interview he said, "Lots of people come into the station still thinking it is under white ownership. Crown Oil Co. wants to let the public know the stations are black owned and operated.

"I think this will serve as an encouragement to other black men to realize there is a future in this business for them,' Bowman added.

A quiet, soft-spoken man, of medium stature, Mr. Bowman, who had managed another Crown Station at Wabash and Garrison for three years before acquiring his present lease noted, "We have some people who pull into the station here and see it is black owned and pull right out. These are often black people."

Asked the reason for this, he responded, "I guess it is hard for them to put their trust in you."

Continuing, he emphasized, "Crown Oil Co. is like one big family. If you have troubles you can talk to them and they will help you out. I'm both glad and happy that I took this job."

Running a business as a service to the public is no easy matter, as Mr. Bowman admits. Gas stations owners do have their problems.

Speaking on the question of crime and robbery, he said, "Getting trustworthy help is one of the biggest problems. As far as crime is concerned, we station owners won't be run out of business by the hoodlums. My business as a Crown Oil Station will go on. As a black man in business, one finds there are good and bad in all races."

Noting the complete service given to customers he said, "We don't check the car just for gas. We check under the hood for everything. Maybe we can't service the problem, but we can let them know about it."

As an owner, Mr. Bowman "put down" a certain amount of money upon acquiring the lease. The company supplies gas, oil, repairs to the pumps, plumbing and anti-freeze. Other needs of the station come out of the owner's pocket.

Reflecting on how he began his affiliation with Crown Oil, Mr. Bowman noted he grew tired of working with a construction company thirteen years ago because of the high rate of layoffs.

He was asked after having worked at another gas station to join with Robert Matthews at his Crown Station on Gwynns Falls Parkway.

He later began to manage the Crown Station at Wabash and Garrison until after prodding and encouragement by Crown officials he accepted the offer of a lease at the Franklin St. location.

Born in Baltimore, but reared in Virginia, Mr. Bowman returned to this city at age 10. He attended the Carver High School concentrating in automobile mechanics.

His civic association is with the Board of Deacons of the Mt. Sinai Baptist Church where he is a member.

His wife, Mrs. Evelyn Mable Bowman, often assists him in business matters at the station, as do two of his older children.

The Bowman family has five children in all. They are Debra, 23, a student at the Community College of Baltimore; Rosalie, 22; Lawrence Jr., 20, a student at Frostburg State; Michael, 17, and Kevin, 8, who both attend Baltimore Public Schools.

The family resides in the 3300 block Burleigh Avenue.

CROWN OIL STATION owner Lawrence Bowman Sr. and son, Lawrence Jr., shown at the station after Junior arrived home from college for the holidays.

Bird houses contest slated for April 8

The 5th annual Bird House Making contest sponsored by the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks will be held April 8 next year at noon at the Paterson Park Pavilion on Pratt St.

Next year's affair will include a special contest for those over 16 years of age, including senior citizens.

Those over 16 are invited to build three-story family Martin houses. While youngsters, 16 and under will build wren and wood duck boxes.

Winning bird houses will be installed at the Baltimore Zoo. Entrants may add accessories such as porches, TV antenna, windows, and chimneys. Entries will be judged on originality as well as construction and finish.

Ribbons and certificates will be presented to first, second, third, and fourth place winners in the following age groups: 8 years and under, 9 and 10 years, 1 and 12 years, 13 to 16 years, and over 16 years.

There will be three grand prize winners selected; one in the Wren House Contest, one in the Wood Duck Next Box Contest, and one in the Family Martin Class. Each grand prize winner will receive a $25 Savings Bond.

The three savings bonds have been donated by the Md. Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Entry blanks and patterns are available by calling Miss Virginia S. Baker at 685-5826, extension 235.

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AFRO reporter on TV 67 10 p.m. tonight

Attorney General Francis B. Burch will discuss how the state tries to protect the Christmas shoppers from fraud on TV 67, Friday at 10 p.m.

The program, Point Blank, is produced by the Maryland Center for Public Broadcasting and will be repeated Saturday at 1 p.m. The AFRO's columnist, Val Hymes, will dóan analysis. Tom Gillettee is the host.

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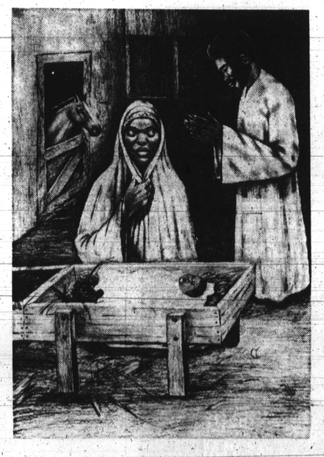

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Bears need super game at Rutgers on Saturday

In more ways than one, and for more reasons than coach Earl Banks cares to enumerate, his Morgan State College football team is going to need a "super" effort in tomorrow's (Saturday) game at Rutgers' University.

"They are gunning for us and I get the feeling Rutgers is looking at this game as a battle to save face. They're in a losing season, and when that is the situation the last game of the year is always tremendously important," observes Banks.

• • •

The truth is that, while the Scarlet Knights are only 3-7 for their 10-game season to date, the record does not represent a poor performance by small-college standards.

Among the seven defeats are losses to teams like Cornell, Army, Lafayette, Columbia and Bucknell — the latter two by the slim margin of one point.

The Rutgers victories were over Princeton, Holy Cross and Colgate.

• • •

"They've scouted four of our games," Banks continues, "and that should give an indication of how seriously they are taking the game.

"Additionally, all their publicity releases on the meeting with us is geared to suggest that beating us will be a major achievement, while losing to us will be what should be expected. It's a psych thing designed to get 'up' their players for us."

Morgan also has her share of incentives.

Aside from suffering their second straight setback Saturday against Virginia State, the Bears are themselves confronted with a face-saving situation.

Last year, Morgan was thumped by Delaware in the Boardwalk Bowl at Atlantic City. She then bowed to Grambling into Urban League Classic at Yankee Stadium. And Saturday's loss to Virginia State meant inflation of the bubble the Bears had built up in taking the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference title.

"And we're going to have to do it without some of our key men," laments the Bears coach. "We won't have Curt Davis on offense and Stan Cherry on defense.

"Two other strong defense men — John Andrews and Richard Tyus — are questionable, and William Smith will be below par, if he plays at all."

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Mention of Smith, who is the place kicker, triggered another question, one which has been fired at Banks all week since last Saturday's game when a successful field goal would have reversed the 14-12 decision. Why didn't the Bears try for the three points instead of playing for a touchdown in the waning seconds?

"In the absence of Ron Mayo (who has been out all season), we had been using Smith," Earl explains. "When he, too, was hurt, we went to Jimmy Joe. Jimmy is essentially a runner and really has not been trained as a kicker.

"But beyond this," Banks goes on, "people who have been watching pro football so long seem to think that kicking by college teams is also automatic. This is far from the case." . . . SAM LACY.

Boston, Cincy, Seattle test Bullets in week

The Baltimore Bullets, slowly but surely regrouping, after a tumultuos opening month, face the Boston Celtics at College Park tomorrow (Saturday night and then return to the Civic Center Tuesday night to face the Cincinnati Royals.

Then, following a quick trip to Toronto, for a match with the Buffalo Braves, the Bullets come right back home for a contest against the vastly improved Seattle Supersonics next Friday night.

These three home games will mark the first appearances in the area of all three of the Bullets' opponents.

Both the Celtics and the Supersonics were tabbed early as the possible surprise teams in the NBA this season—and they have lived up to advance bulling. The Celtics, with John Havlicek, Dave Cowens and Jo Jo White' jumped into the lead in the tough Atlantic Division that was supposed to be dominated by the New York Knicks.

And Seattle, with Spencer Haywood coming into his own as one of the finest forwards in basketball and player-coach Lenny Wilkens supplying uncanny direction from the backcourt, has become a legitimate challenger to Los Angeles in the Pacific Division.

• • •

When Wilkens, Haywood and the rest of the Sonics come in next Friday night, the Bullets will stage their annual "T-Shirt Night."

All youngsters 14 and under, accompanied by a paying adult, will receive a coupon that can be exchanged for a Bullets T-Shirt at any of 20 participating drug stores.

Frazier 'Super' defense to be shown on home TV

NEW ORLEANS — (upi) — World heavyweight champion Joe Frazier signed Monday to "come out smoking" and defend his title against college student Terry Daniels the night before the 1972 Super Bowl football game.

"Believe me," I'm going to be out there smoking and try to keep that title because I don't intend to give it up to anybody," said Frazier, undefeated in 27 fights, including 23 knockouts.

Daniels, who will graduate from Southern Methodist University in a few months with a degree in government, said he felt "good" about the signing because of the "fact that just one man stands between me and the heavyweight title and all the goodies that go with it."

The 10 p.m. (EST) 15-round title fight Jan. 15 will be shown nationally on home television and is expected by Century Telesports Network, the carrier, to draw an audience of 24 million viewers. It is the first time a world heavyweight title fight has been shown live on television since Muhammad Ali beat Zora Foley in March 1967.

Daniels, 25, a native of Willoughby, Ohio who now lives in Dallas has a record of 29 victories, four losses and a draw. The 6-1 former SMU football player has knocked out 25 of the 29 foes he has defeated. One of his losses was a decision to Floyd Patterson.

The 204-pound Frazier will be making his first start since last March 8 when he took undisputed possession of the world heavyweight title by decisioning Muhammad Ali in 15 rounds. The 28-year-old Philadelphian has been guaranteed a $250,000 purse, while Daniels, 195 pounds, is to get $40,000.

5th Turkey Bowl program held at Druid Hill Park

The 5th annual District Turkey Bowl, which is a touch football tournament, is rolling right along. This morning (Friday) at 11 a.m., teams participating from eleven centers of the Baltimore City Bureau of Recreation, began a day of grueling competition on the Druid Hill Park oval.

The contest is being held in two age groups; 12 years and under and 15 years and under. The 12-year-old contest got under way at 11 o'clock and the 15-year old contest began at 1 p.m.

At the conclusion of the 1.2-year-old contest, the Crimson Crusaders Drum and Bugle Corps of the East Baltimore Elks will perform, and the trophies for this age group will be presented.

Talented welters head Building Trades show

The two most promising welterweights in this area, Buddy Boggs and Roland Pryor, who clash with Dickie DiVeronica and Pete Toro in the double main event of the Baltimore Building Trades' Christmas Charity Show at the Civic Center, Dec. 1, are looking ahead.

Boggs has won six straight bouts on the West Coast this year. He is considered by most fight buffs to have the fastest hands of any welterweight in the area, including world champion Jose Napoles.

Buddy's adversary will be the tough DiVeronica who is known here for his sensational knockouts over Sweet Herbie Lee and Leroy "Hurricane" Roberts.

Pryor of Washington, D.C. is one of the better boxers in the welterweight class. He has won 18 of 19 pro bouts and his only loss was a disputed split decision. Pryor has been avoided by most of the top welterweights because of his excellent boxing ability.

However, Pryor will be tangling with the very talented Pete Toro, who has fought the best of the welterweights and the middleweights, including champion Napoles.

Western High coed captures Badminton title

Gerry Finegan of Western High School captured the girls' badminton title in the recent scholastic tournament.

Miss Finegan defeated Forest Park's Lynette Wortham in the final match.

To reach the title round, Gerry downed Becky Taliaferro of Northwestern, in the quarters, and schoolmate Jackie Davis in the semi-finals.

Miss Wortham survived matches with NW's Shelley Brown in the quarter-finals, and Patterson's Margaret James before bowing to Miss Finegan.

Indians star is top rookie

NEW YORK (UPI) — Chris Chambliss has won his second consecutive rookie of the year award. The hard-hitting Cleveland first baseman collected 11 of the 24 votes cast by sports writers in American League cities.

Chambliss, last year's top rookie in the American Association where he batted .342 for Wichita, received six more votes than his nearest competitor, Milwaukee Brewer pitcher Bill Parsons, in the balloting for the best first-year man in the American League.

Third in the judgement of the sports writers was Oakland athletic outfielder Angel Mangual with four votes, followed by Boston Red Sox second baseman Doug Griffin with three. Paul Splittorff was the only other player to receive consideration but the Kansas City Royal Southpaw received only one vote.

Chambliss joined the Indians on May 17 from Wichita and wound up the season with a .275 average, nine home runs and 46 RBI. Upshaw

Pin out, Carty's leg 'looks good'

ATLANTA (UPI) — Doctors have removed a pin from Atlanta Braves batting star Rico Carty's injured left leg and report x-rays of the leg "look good."

Carty, who led the majors in hitting in 1969 with a .366 average, missed all of the 1970 season after breaking his leg last Dec. 11 in a collision during a game in the Dominican Republic.

Carty, who has a seven-year major league batting average of .322, left the hospital Thursday but will remain in Atlanta until stitches are removed in a week or 10 days.

NFL star Wells moved to Sierra

JAMESTOWN, Calif. Warren Wells, Oakland Raiders wide receiver, has been sent to the Sierra Conservation Camp in Jamestown.

Wells, 28, was transferred a few days from the Reception Guidance Center at Vacaville. He was remanded to the State Department of Corrections last September when a judge revoked his probation on an attempted rape conviction for assaulting a woman in Texas.

Wells' case is due for review on Jan. 2.

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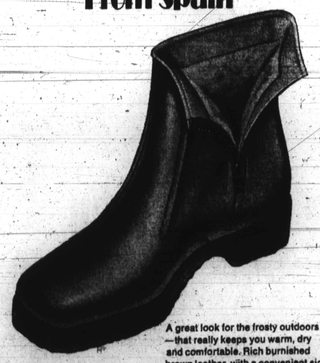

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