WOULD BE FIRST BLACK OWNER OF A SPORTS FRANCHISE

Chicago businessman may buy Bowie track

A black businessman from Chicago is interested in buying Bowie Race Course but feels the asking price is too high, according to a former general manager of the race track.

John F. Loome, who was general manager from 1958 until 1970, said he and John Swain, the owner of a chain of drug stores in Chicago, have met several times with the owners of Bowie concerning the sale.

Loome, who might become general manager again if Swain purchased the track, said future meetings are planned, but "the asking price is still too high and I am not optimistic at this point."

It has been reported that Gibralter Peri - Mutuel Inc., the Canadian - based parent firm of Bowie, was seeking $7.5 million plus assumption of a $3,150,000 loan. Loome said that was "pretty much on target. But that was the original asking price. There has been some movement and the most recent price has more merit than I anticipated."

Bowie Board Chairman Kenneth Roberts could not be reached for comment.

If the negotiations are completed, Swain would become the first black owner of a major U.S. sports franchise. He is president of the Associates Racing Association, formed several years ago in Illinois to give minority groups a chance to participate in racing there. The group also reportedly negotiated for the purchase of Laurel.

We're not close to a deal," said Swain when he was contacted in Chicago. "The numbers were too far apart."

Swain's group conducted a 15-night harness meet last winter at Maywood Park, outside of Chicago and last year operated a similar lease arrangement for 23-nights at Washington Park.

Laurel owner John Shapiro said he has received several offers from parties interested in buying Laurel but would not disclose names.

• • •

"The offers were not acceptable so I haven't had any reason to make any announcement," he said.

He said he has not been seeking a buyer, but would listen to offers.

Shapiro has been predicting that some Maryland tracks will soon be operating at a deficit unless they receive some help through the General Assembly. The track operators agreed on a three - year contract with track workers which provided for significant raises after a 29-day strike.

A bill providing some relief was tabled during the recent session of the legislature. The bill came up again in talks last week in a joint meeting of the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee. (UPI)

Schools close for summer

Earliest summer vacation closing date for Maryland public schools this year is June 10.

Schools in Anne Arundel, Caroline, Charles, Queen Anne's St. Mary's and Worcester counties will close on that day, according to a report of the state department of education.

School ends June 13 in Calvert, Cecil and Dorchester counties.

June 14 is the last school day in Allegany, Frederick, Harford, Somerset, Washington and Wicomico counties.

Schools in Baltimore County, Howard, Kent, Montgomery, Prince George's and Talbot counties closed on June 16. And the last day of school in Baltimore City, Carroll and Garrett counties is June 17.

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Welfare mothers get jobs

WASHINGTON — It is predicted that welfare mothers will receive nearly 100,000 of the government's more than 400,000 new public service jobs, U.S. Labor Department officials said Monday.

Assistant Labor Secretary Ernest Green, who heads the employment and training administration, said a preliminary review showed that only one of every eight applicants has been judged eligible to meet the strict requirements for public service employment.

The new jobs are restricted to jobless applicants under a certain income level. About 38 percent of the new jobs have been earmarked for unemployed, disabled and Vietnam-era veterans.

In addition, those hired under the program also must be either recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children, unemployed for 15 or more weeks or jobless persons who have exhausted their unemployment compensation benefits.

Green said the review of applicants eligible under these criteria produced an unexpected high number of AFDC recipients—most of them welfare mothers.

He added that some public service employment projects are being altered to accommodate the unexpectedly large number of job-seeking welfare mothers.

Green suggested this phenomenon was especially important since the new public service jobs program will likely serve as a prototype for employment guarantees in the administration's new welfare reform program.

President Carter's economic stimulus program provides a total of 770,000 public service jobs— an increase of 410,000 jobs over the existing programs —in special projects sponsored by state and local governments.

Green said the approved work projects included "A lot of park development" and some weatherizing of buildings. He also mentioned one program to repair wheelchairs and a mobile unit operated by public service jobholders to test citizens for hypertension.

Labor officials predicted the first major wave of hiring under the program will occur in late June and all 750,000 jobs will be filled by Jan. 1. These jobs pay the local prevailing wage rates up to a maximum of $10,000 a year.

Green also said the review indicated the program may fall short of its goal for hiring veterans. About 18 per cent of the eligible applicants were veterans, he said.

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Swimming classes offered

The North Area Center YWCA will be offering swimming lessons for boys and girls ages 6-12 beginning Monday, June 27, 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. The lessons will be held at the Lan Lea Motel pool behind Lan Lea Motel, 1727 York Rd., Lutherville.

The YWCA swim program is Red Cross certified instruction taught by LaDonna Diehl, YWCA Swim Team coach. Four two week sessions (Mon. Thurs.) are available. To register call the North Area Center YWCA, 252-4230.

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Liberia salutes Baltimore

Baltimore's port has helped further trade and commerce between the city and African nations, Francis A. Dennis, the Liberian Ambassador to the United States, said in a ceremony at City Hall Tuesday afternoon.

His remarks were part of an unveiling of a special plaque commemorating the Bicentennial state visit to this country of Dr. William R. Tolbert Jr., president of Liberia.

The plaque was commissioned at the African president's express wishes because of the special relationship that has existed between Gbarnga, a Liberian city, and Baltimore, as both cities participated in the international sister-cities program.

According to the mayor's spokesman "The plaque was originally presented to Baltimore during Dr. Tolbert's Bicentennial celebrations last year. It has been placed in the second floor rotunda of City Hall, which reopened after extensive renovations in January, 1977. The plaque is located near statues of former mayors and other markers noting significant events in Baltimore history."

Ambassador Dennis said the presentation of the plaque, made from Liberian ore, "is a milestone in the annals between the U.S. and Liberia."

The diminutive ambassador extraordinary plenipotentiary said the plaque also celebrates the 1822 visit by agents of the American Colonization Society that resulted in the founding of Liberia by a group of black American freedmen.

There is a state of Maryland in the country, he added that is one of nine subdivisions of the nation.

According to the mayor's spokesman, "The sister agreement with Gbarnga was begun in 1973, and aspects of this cultural exchange have been an exhibit on Baltimore sent to Liberians, a 'pen pal' project involving 30 local schools and 25 schools in Gbarnga, an exchange of school teachers, and the donation of 25 tons of books to the Liberian city's school system."

—Woman held

(FROM PAGE ONE)

caught while fishing," said Ms. Walker.

James Spear, who is a tenant in Mrs. Caldwell's home is quoted as saying, "I could not believe it when the police told me she had been killed."

Mr. Spear said he usually goes fishing with friends and was not home on Sunday. "She very seldom had company in the house and would usually sit on the front steps with her neighbors. She had any men in her house," Mr. [illegible] told the AFRO.

The AFRO was told by several neighbors the women had been arguing over some fish. Mrs. Caldwell was unemployed due to her health and had lived on Perlman Pl. for eight months.

Funeral services were held Thursday at William C. March Funeral home. She is survived by her a son, Thurman McGill; mother, Mrs. Susie Barco; three grandchildren and stepfather Eddie Barco.

—Death bill

(FROM PAGE ONE)

ity prison in East Baltimore.

Wilner and Lee held veto hearings on several bills Monday and the session was video-taped so Mandel could review the arguments. Wilner said Mandel planned to view the tapes before acting on the legislation.

Among the issues discussed at the hearing was requiring parents to be notified before their daughter got an abortion and legislation requiring employers to include pregnancy disability benefits on company insurance programs. (UPI)

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Summertime gymnastics sponsored

Boys and girls, ages 5-14, will enjoy a unique 5-day per week gymnastics program this summer, sponsored by the North Area Center YWCA and held at Cockeysville Elementary School, 10535 York Rd., Cockeysville, beginning June 20.

This summer gymnastics program is led by Garry [illegible]min, physical education instructor and coach of the Cockeysville Gymnastics Team. Practices are held for one hour and 45 minutes each day, Monday through Friday at 8 a.m. for experienced gymnasts and at 10 a.m. for beginning students.

An evening class will also be held from 6:7:45 p.m. Two 4 week sessions are available, June 20-July 15 and July 25 — Aug. 19.

Students will gain experience on equipment such as mats, parallel and uneven bars, balance beams, Tampoline, vaulting box and spring board.

For registration information call the North Area Center YWCA, 252-4230.

LEGAL NOTICE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
INVITATION FOR BIDS
Sealed proposals addressed to Baltimore County, Maryland for the following contracts will be received from prequalified bidders in Suite 412, Courts Building 401 Bestley Avenue, Towson, Maryland 21204 until the date and time specified by addendum, at which time they will be publicly opened and read.

CONTRACT NO. 77159 SXO
BLETZER RD., PUMPING STATION
BLETZER AREA
W.P.C.-MD.-237
E.P.A. Project No. C-240237-01
DISTRICT 15-E7

Proposed work consists of: Construction of Bletzer Road Sewage Pumping Station.

CONTRACT NO. 77151 SXO
BLENHURST PUMPING STATION
BLETZER AREA
DISTRICT 15-E7
W.P.C.-MD.-237
E.P.A. PROJECT NO. C-240237-01

Proposed work consists of: Construction of the Blenhurst Sewage Pumping Station

CONTRACT NO. 77152 SXO
ROSEBANK PUMPING STATION
ROSEBANK AREA
DISTRICT 15-E7
W.P.C.-MD.-237
E.P.A. PROJECT NO. C-240237-01

Proposed work consists of: Construction of Rosebank Sewage Pumping Station

Plans, specifications and other contract documents may be inspected and obtained on or after May 27, 1977, at the office of Contracts and Specifications Division, Bureau of Engineering, Room 205, Baltimore County Office Building, Towson, Maryland 21204, upon payment of Five Dollars ($5.00) per contract. No refunds will be made to bidders.

All bidding will be conducted in accordance with the laws, policies and procedures as outlined in the Baltimore County Code and Baltimore County Purchasing Manual.

The Purchasing Agent reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or bids or parts of bids or to accept any bid or part of bids and to waive technicalities as he may deem best for the interest of the County.

Any contract or contracts awarded upon this invitation for Bids are expected to be funded in part by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Neither the United States nor any of its departments, agencies or employees is or will be a party to this invitation for Bids or any resulting contract. This procurement will be subject to regulations contained in 40 CFR 35.936, 35.939 and 35.936.

"NONDISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT"

Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the President's Executive Order Number 11246. The requirements for this item and contract are set forth in the Bid Specifications.

JOHN L. WIGHTON
Purchasing Agent