Windsor Mill Stable brings horse riding back to the city

By Portia E. Badham
AFRO Staff Writer

For the first time in nearly 15 years, Baltimoreans can enjoy horseback riding within the city limits, thanks to three avid riders who opened a riding stable two weeks ago.

Windsor Mill Stable located in the Windsor Mill section of Leakin Park, is owned and operated by Aaron Morgan, Eddie Harrison and Toni Prato who each had a love for horses and an interest in bringing riding back to the city.

Morgan had been pondering the idea of opening a stable in the city for several years. Originally a New Yorker who came to Baltimore to attend Morgan State University, he was first introduced to horses in Central Park.

"When I was about 12 years old, I would take my allowance and instead of going to the movies, I'd go horseback riding. It's always been something I loved to do," he said.

At the same time Morgan was developing his idea, Harrison and Ms. Prato who worked together at Justice Resources, also talked about an interest in owning a stable.

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Harrison had been a horse owner for several years and would ride his horses through the back trails from Columbia, Md. to Leakin Park.

That's how he discovered the area for the stable and the sprawling acreage for trials.

Ms. Prato has worked at several stables around the Baltimore area and and owns several blue ribbon horses who are now kept at the riding stable.

"People kept telling me and Eddie that we should talk to this guy named Morgan because everybody had heard him saying he wanted to open a stable too," remembers Toni. "It turned out he worked with us at Justice Resources."

The three came together about four years ago and began talks with the city's Bureau of Recreation and Parks to obtain space at the park. Provisional approval was granted in 1977.

By 1979 Harrison, Morgan and Prato had formed a corporation, Equestrian Recreation Incorporated. The city granted their request to lease 1.5 acres in the park next to a large stone structure that served as a riding stable 15 years ago when the park featured horseback riding.

The city now houses equipment in the facility but the owners are attempting to lease that structure at some future time.

Through personal resources and a bank loan, the threesome were able to raise $30,000 to open the stables with 10 horses. They hope to increase the number of horses to 20. The stable six miles of open trails for riders.

Windsor Mill Stable is open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Horses are available at $7 an hour for experienced riders, beginners and even children.

STABLE OWNERS — Eddie Harrison, Toni Prato and Aaron Morgan are the owners and operators of the city's first riding stable in 15 years, Windsor Mill Stables located in the Windsor Mill Park.

AFRO Photo by Roman Hankewych

The stable also features riding lessons and group accommodations.

"With crime and juvenile delinquency what it is, we thought it would be good for inner-city children to have somewhere to go," said Harrison.

"We're trying to give them something viable to do."

Morgan adds, "People who love horses develop a healthy attitude in general and a concern and respect for nature."

"Maryland has always been known as a horse state. But the horses are associated to gambling and races. We want to reintroduce a different attitude."

McDonnell Douglass to aid black, disadvantaged firms

Black-owned and other disadvantaged firms will be assisted in their efforts to become successful and viable businesses through an agreement signed by McDonnell Douglas Corporation and the U.S. Small Business Administration.

McDonnell Douglas is the third major corporation and the first aerospace manufacturer to cooperate with SBA in a new program designed to help minority-owned and other disadvantaged firms become independently competitive in the commercial market.

Under the agreement, McDonnell Douglas will review the capabilities and facilities of socially and economically disadvantaged firms referred by the SBA.

Representatives of the corporation will visit or request capability statements from referral firms to determine whether they can qualify as suppliers to McDonnell Douglas.

"McDonnell Douglas was selected to sign this agreement because of its excellent record in dealing with disadvantaged firms in the past," said Milton Wilson, director of Capital Ownership Development for SBA.

At the signing, Joseph Alagna, vice president of material at McDonnell Douglas, said, "We have been working with small, disadvantaged firms throughout the country for years, but this agreement marks the first formal, corporate-wide program by McDonnell Douglas in cooperation with SBA."

McDonnell Douglas manufactures commercial airliners, the DC-9 and the DC-10, at the Douglas Aircraft Company in Long Beach, Calif.

Douglas also makes the military version of the DC-10, the KC-10 advanced tanker-cargo aircraft for the U.S. Air Force.

Murphy is new WJZ controller

Howard Q.L. Murphy has been appointed controller of WJZ-TV, the Group W (Westinghouse Broadcasting Company) station in Baltimore, it was announced by Paul Yates, vice president and general manager.

Murphy's appointment was effective June 1 and he succeeds James Zuratt.

He has served as assistant controller at WJZ TV since February 1979. Before joining WJZ TV, Murphy was senior financial analyst for the Westinghouse Transformer Division from March 1977 to February 1979.

Murphy graduated cum laude from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University with a bachelor of science degree in accounting.

A native of Greensboro, N.C., he is married to the former Patricia Mayhand. The Murphy's have two daughters, Joy and Clarissa.

Howard Q. L. Murphy

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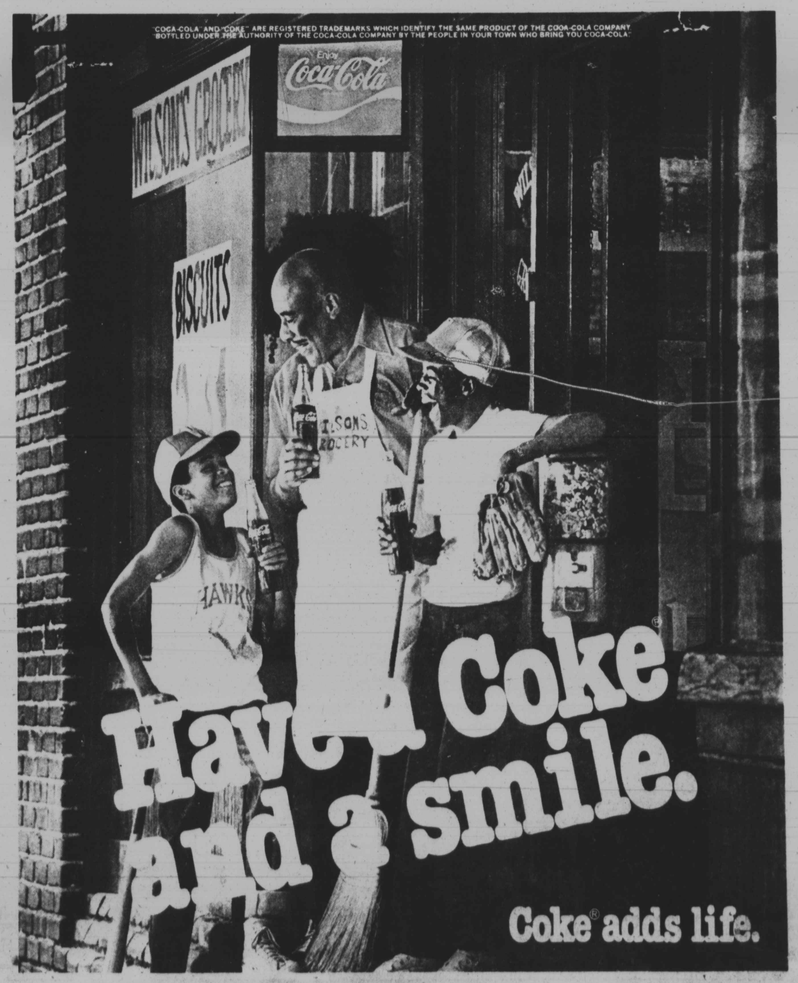

Inner Harbor firm is city's only black paper company

By Portia E. Badham
AFRO Staff Writer

James Gee, the owner of Inner Harbor Paper Company knew the paper supply business was competitive.

But he had the insight and the determination to make his firm work and now nearly two years later, the company is not only successful but the only black paper supply firm.

Inner Harbor Paper Company, located in the Raleigh Industrial Building on Wicomico Street, began two years ago with a warehouse in Capital Heights, Md.

In May 1980 the firm was one of the first tenants to occupy the new Raleigh Building, a project of the mayor's office and the Baltimore Economic Development Corporation (BEDCO).

Paula Cullings, general manager of the the company, said, "We got in on the ground floor of this project. The mayor was looking for companies with a track record who could prove they could grow. He wanted to keep the economics here."

The firm started as a distributor for Fort Howard and carried industrial products such as toilet tissue, towels and can liners.

The company has expanded to include all paper products including commercial products such as fine bond paper and computer paper.

Inner Harbor services the Rouse Company at Harborplace, as well as most of the black-owned businesses at Harborplace, Provident and Lutheran Hospitals, Howard University and Hospital and Westinghouse Electric.

In addition, the firm has a sizeable contract with the state to service most of its agencies.

"This industry is so competitive," said Mrs. Cullings. "But we've found we can compete."

Gee adds, "There's no limit to where we can go. It's an available market. We're only tapping about two percent of the commercial market. There's so much potential."

Mrs. Cullings who heads the office and makes sure the operation runs smoothly, worked at the Greater Baltimore Minority Purchasing Council for five years.

In addition to her many duties as general manager of Inner Harbor Paper Company she also owns her own transportation company. The firm, Paula Transportation, provides school bus service to the public schools as well as private schools and other groups.

"My parents were entrepreneurs, so I've always had a thing for business. I know how it works and I like volume business," she said.

KEEPING THE BUSINESS ROLLING — Paula Cullings, manager of Inner Harbor Paper Company, keeps an eye on the warehouse and makes sure that orders are being serviced properly.

Company corner

Six promoted in Circulation Dept.

Several promotions have been made in the AFRO AMERICAN's Circulation department which include:

Arsetta M. Lottier has been named Circulation Promotion Manager Mrs. Lottier joined the AFRO staff in 1975 as assistant to the Public Relations Director.

Grace L. Singletary is now Circulation Operations Manager Mrs. Singletary joined the company in 1978 as a circulation supervisor.

George Lee is the new Single Copy Sales Manager for the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN. He has been with the company for 35 years in various positions.

Arthur Murray has been named Single Copy Sales Manager for the National and New Jersey AFRO - AMERICAN Newspapers. He was previously Home Delivery Manager for the Baltimore AFRO.

Al Tyler has been named Home Delivery Manager, Tyler joined the Circulation Dept. in March 1980. Prior to that he worked with Motorola Communications and Electronics.

Robert Rea Sr. has been named Outside Sales Manager for the Baltimore AFRO. Rea has been with the AFRO for 35 years in various positions.

This fall, Mondawmin Mall will have served the Baltimore community for 25 years. We look forward to another 25 years of serving you, our customer, with increased excellence and responsiveness to your needs.

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"Phase I" renovations have been completed and merchants and customers agree, "Mondawmin Mall has never looked better!" We look forward to seeing you on the mall as we begin "Phase II" of our renovation program. 68 Stores at Liberty Heights Avenue and Reisterstown Road.

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Pantry Pride

Eugene Rolls was employed in 1971 as a full time Grocery Clerk, he was promoted to Grocery Manager in February, 1975. Mr. Rolls was selected for the Store Manager Training Program in August, 1976. On April 1, 1977 he became a Store Manager which entails complete responsibility for the operations of Pantry Pride Store in the Mondawmin Center.

John W. Ruffin, Jr. has been appointed vice president, general merchandise for the Company's Pantry Pride Supermarket Division.

Mr. Ruffin comes to Food Fair from the Grand Union Company, where his service spanned 14 years. Most recently he was national merchandising manager of Grand Union's general merchandise department. Prior to that he served in a variety of positions, including assistant store manager, general store manager, regional food buyer and merchandiser, assistant sales promotion manager, and general merchandise manager.

A graduate of Morgan State University, in Baltimore, Mr. Ruffin earned a Master's degree in Marketing at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y.

Craig Combs, a graduate of Morgan State University, was employed by Pantry Pride in June of 1980 as a special projects accountant. He was promoted to Direct Delivery Accounts Payable/Retail Accounting Manager in September of 1980. Prior to his association with Pantry Pride, Craig spent several years with an international public accounting firm.

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