



By MARK QUEEN

Earle White Grid Mogul

JUST IN CASE you didn't notice, our own Earle White has been named a director of the Las Vegas team that will compete in the Western States Football League this fall if everything works out as planned.

The local attorney, assistant general counsel for Southwest Gas, finds himself in some high class company as a member of the board of the Las Vegas club. Other directors are North Las Vegas Police Chief Nick Janise, former big-league umpire Joe Rue of Young & Rue-Mayflower van lines; Frank Del Rocco of Pan American Airways and Pat Deskin, director of athletics for the Clark County School District.

"Bootin' Ben" Agajanian, veteran of almost two decades of NFL and AFL warfare, is the new league commissioner and should prove a valuable asset to the reorganized pro organization. Present WSFL members besides Las Vegas are Bakersfield, Long Beach, Santa Ana, San Fernando Valley and San Jose. Las Vegas will play a 15-game schedule in 1965 under present arrangements. Eight games will be played at Cashman Field, with the other seven on the road according to General Manager Ken Stewart.

Home games will be scheduled to avoid conflict with local high school contests and TV showings of major league pro and college competition. And best of all, tickets will sell for a buck or two! That's smart.

Good luck, fellows!

Top Spielers for "500"

THREE COLORFUL ANNOUNCERS known to auto racing fans across the country will cover the closed circuit telecast of the Indianapolis Speedway 500-mile classic on Memorial Day, Monday, May 31. The race will be shown at the Flamingo Hotel's Mead Room. The four-hour spectacular will not be shown on home TV.

Charlie Brockman, Chris Economaki and Sam Hanks compose the famed trio that will provide narrative and "color" commentary for closed circuit TV audiences in key cities throughout the nation.

Brockman, who will call the race from start to finish, has been associated with the "500" for many years. He is sports director for an Indianapolis radio station. Economaki, noted racing editor and publisher, will handle activity in the pits. Hanks, an all-time Indianapolis great and winner of the 1957 race, will report developments from the viewpoint of drivers on the track. A corps of other announcers, stationed at strategic points around the oval, will be in constant communication with the main announcing booth.

Economaki is known locally as a part owner of the Tip Top Restaurant on Las Vegas Blvd. South.

Tickets for the Las Vegas closed circuit telecast are available during the day at Todkill Lincoln-Mercury, 2000 Las Vegas Blvd. South, and evenings (6 p.m. to midnight) at the Flamingo casino. The Flamingo booth will be open from noon to midnight this weekend.

Pre-race coverage will begin at 8:40 a.m. (Las Vegas time) on Monday. The race gets underway at 9 a.m. and will continue until the winner has completed 500 laps, probably around 1 p.m. Tickets are priced at \$8, \$10 and \$12.

MAY IS NATIONAL



LEON WAGNER . . . A Strong Arm for Wayward Kids

Leon Sets 'Em Straight

Wags Hits Clean-Up On Young Toughies

By HAL LEBOVITZ

In the Cleveland Plain Dealer

When it comes to money, Leon Wagner realistically has his eyes on the future. He's incorporated. Wags still has a silent interest in a Los Angeles clothing store and recently the corporation expanded by opening a music record store in a shopping center.

"We had three teen-age girls selling the records and they draw the teenagers," reported the Indians' slugger.

"I don't spend much time at the store, but I've got a plush office and I draw \$500 from the business each month during the off season. But that's the end of our liquid inventories. From now on, I'm going to invest in apartments and blue-chip stocks.

"I don't even see my baseball salary. It's sent straight to my accountant in Los Angeles. During the season, he sends me back a check for \$600 a month and invests the rest."

The "rest" is substantial because Wags is among the three highest-paid members of the team.

"I don't want to be like a lot of players—wait too late to invest," he explained.

Wagner Counting on Investments for Income

But Leon isn't figuring on being a "businessman" as his life's work. His investments, he hopes, will support him while he pursues a career in social work after he gets out of baseball.

"Not much money in social work," he confessed. "But plenty of satisfaction. I started last November. I told a college friend of mine (from Tuskegee Institute) of my ambition. He said, 'Why wait? Start now.' Next thing he had me working for the Los Angeles Recreation Department, fighting juvenile delinquency. They teamed me with another fellow and they sent us to the recreation centers having the most trouble."

At one playground there were complaints that sex deviates were molesting the youngsters.

"We staked out the place," reported Wags. "I've got a daughter 4 years old and I know how I feel about these molesters. I saw this one man trail a little boy. I grabbed him. I knew it was no sense turning him in. Guys like him are picked up 20 times and let loose. They just come back.

"Really I wanted to choke him. Instead I gave him a good talking to. Then I gave him three good kicks in the back of his britches. He didn't hang around that playground anymore.

"Sometimes I think swift kicks will eliminate a lot of deviate problems."

Then there was the case in juvenile court involving a gang of eight boys who had beaten an old man who had asked them to stay off his property.

"The boys were from ages 11 to 13, Mexicans, Negroes and whites," related Wags. "They sat in court smoking, showing no remorse. When the man came in all bandaged up, one kid said proudly, 'We sure did a good job of beating you up.' These kids knew nothing could be done to them.

Playgrounds Rate Highest With Tough Kids

"We took their names and found what playground they attended. These kids have only three homes, their original—and in most cases they have been kicked out of it—the detention home and the playgrounds. The playground is the only home they don't want to lose. We told them they can't come around if they don't behave. We talked to them like human beings, treated 'em decent. Mainly we go to the gang leaders. I found all of them good kids basically. They just want to be somebody. They've been pushed around and so they push back.

"I pointed out they can show how good they are through sports. Pretty soon the gang leaders were keeping everybody in line and they all wanted to show me what good players they were. That gang of eight kids turned out to be fine helpers at the dances and other activities."

Wags admits he wasn't always this successful. "Those kids smoking dope in the trees, they were the toughest. I'd say we made our point about 80 per cent of the time."

Which is a fantastic batting average in any league.

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