

Dale Denies Bankruptcy Claim

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Sources in Waukesha said negotiations have been going on for two weeks over impending sale of Dale Chevrolet Co. However, no legal documents have been filed nor have the parties confirmed a sale.

E. O. Dale formed Associates, in 1971, in acquiring land, then developed a recreation area in the bluffs and valleys along the Mississippi River in Buffalo County.

Records on file in the Buffalo County Register of Deeds office show he was committed to pay \$257,534 through land contracts to the owners of four farms

Principal mortgages on those properties were \$750,000, held by World Service Life Insurance Co of Texas, Cochrane State Bank, \$37,000 and First Federal Savings and Loan Assn. of La Crosse, \$20,000.

Given the name Hiawatha Valley-Hiawatha Hills, the recreation area was intended to be open

the year round. It had a boat marina, ski tower, snowmobile course and a restaurant-bar.

Sources in Buffalo County told the Freeman last week the recreational development is now closed with the exception of the bar and the marina. But William Dale said today the recreation area is still in business.

Dale took over options on the land from a grassroots organization, Buffalo Valley, Inc., which had raised money through memberships, to develop a recreation area.

Community leaders in Alma, Cochrane, Buffalo City thought a recreational enterprise would bring in dollars to an economically depressed area. The county is sparsely populated and derives most of its income from agriculture.

The citizens group had been assured of a \$1,020,000 loan from the Federal Housing Administration, sources said, but the government agency reneged on its promise.

Then plans lay dormant, including those for a 27-hole golf course, until Dale picked up the op-

tions in 1971.

A newspaperman told the Freeman: "It all began as a dream of a number of people in Buffalo County. They paid membership. But it never got off the ground. Then Dale walked in and picked up the options after local people failed to exercise them."

Dale's firm built a ski hill, had the government dredge a 22-foot channel in an arm of the Mississippi River for a boat channel, built a small restaurant and bar. The ski tow operated for a few seasons, then closed.

According to the source, the promoters had visions of Amtrak trains running from Chicago and the Twin Cities to Hiawatha Valley-Hiawatha Hills to bring in skiing enthusiasts. But the trains never ran. One reason was the development of rival skiing areas near Red Wing, which attracted Twin Cities residents.

Associates, Inc. has had a number of judgments entered against it by contractors who performed work or loaned equipment, indicating financial troubles

Inland Leasing Corp. of Wauwatosa, obtained a judgment for \$24,356 in April, 1975, for what it said were unpaid rentals on a ski tow, other machinery.

American Insurance Management Inc. of Waukesha, obtained a judgment for \$12,692 in Waukesha Circuit Court for an unpaid insurance bill.

A. Kartzman Dredging Co. of La Moille, Minn., obtained a judgment for \$12,000 against Associates, Inc. The judgment was assigned to a third party.

In 1973 and 1974 the Wisconsin Revenue Department filed income tax warrants totaling \$4,504 against Associates, Inc. for unpaid withholding taxes.

W. J. Lazynski, Inc., a Brookfield contractor, obtained a judgment for \$51,987 against E. O. and Helen Dale in 1975 for an unpaid promissory note.

The high point of activity in the Buffalo County recreation area probably occurred in December, 1971, when it was the site of snowmobile races. The 2½ mile run to the top of a 650 foot bluff was named "Crazy Legs Run." It received its name from the former University of Wisconsin football player Elroy (Crazylegs) Hirsch, a close friend of Con Dale. Hirsch was an official in the big race.

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