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The Abaconian

The News of Abaco and its Cays

VOLUME 8, NUMBER 12, JUNE 15th, 2000

June 15, 2000

Methodists Hold Conference

Seventh Annual Conference Attracts Many Abaconians

Some of the leaders of the Bahamas Conference of the Methodist Church are shown under the tent in Dundas Town. The four day conference emphasized Spiritual Growth. Shown above are Rev. Carla Culmer, minister of the Eastern Abaco Region, Rev. Charles Sweeting, President of the Conference, Mr. Maxwell Poitier, Vice President of th Conference, Rev. Charles Carey, Minister of the Abaco Region, Mr. Charles Lewis, Lay Pastor and Rev. William Higgs, Minister of Trinity Methodist Church in Nassau.

The Bahamas Conference of the Methodist Church held its seventh annual conference at St. Andrews Methodist Church in Dundas Town on May 24 to 28. This is the first time a conference has been held on Abaco. About 160 delegates from other areas of the Bahamas joined with Abaco delegates to initiate a new concept for conferences which emphasized Spiritual Growth rather than being a business conference. Two tents on the church grounds served as sanctuary and dining hall.

The conference held workshops during the day which emphasized individual growth in spiritual areas such as worship, leadership in the church and effective Bible study. Nightly services featured music by a variety of groups and special speakers who proved to be motivating and inspiring. The topics carried Christians through a series of challenges beginning with a Call to Unity followed by a Call for Healing, a Call to Service, a Call to Commitment and concluding with a Commissioning to reach out. The Commission was delivered by Rev. Charles Sweeting, President of the

Please See **Church** *Page 22*

Boat Harbour Hosts A New Tournament

By Isobel Sherman

The First Annual Boat Harbour Billfish Blast 2000 was held from May 29 to June 2 at Abaco Beach Resort and Boat Harbour. The tournament which was jointly sponsored by Boat Harbour and HMY Yacht Brokers featured four fishing days but anglers were only allowed to fish three days. The anglers could choose their own Lay Day.

In this first year thirty-nine boats participated. A minimum requirement for a boated blue marlin was a length of 99 inches which is the length that the National Fisheries Service in the United States recommends. No blue marlin was caught until the last day of the tournament when angler Frank Gruber fishing on *My Buddy* from Jupiter, Florida, caught the winning blue marlin. It weighed 488 pounds and was 114 inches long. Winning second place was angler Joe Amato fishing on the *19th Hole* from Jupiter, Florida, who caught a blue dolphin weighing 411

Please See **Fishing** *Page 15*

Mr. Peter Sweeting one of the owners of Boat Harbour Marina, is shown presenting a cheque to Michael Parotti and John Hall of the Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire Department. The donation was from the entry fees.

Music Festival Is a Blast

Two of the people enjoying the music festival are shown dancing to the lively beat.

By Stephanie Humblestone

The North Abaco Music Festival held at the Treasure Cay Ferry Dock on May 26th and 27th was such a success that Senior Deputy Administrator for North Abaco, Mr. Joseph Ferguson, hopes it will become an annual event. Crowds numbering in the hundreds flocked to the festival from all over Abaco. Among them were dignitaries from Nassau including the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Hubert Ingraham; Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Frank Watson; and Minister of Health, Dr. Ronald Knowles as well as the Chairman of the Port Authority, Freeport, Mr. Albert Miller.

Among the entertainers were performer singer Nita Ellis, Stevie S. and a rake 'n scrape band, the Lassie Do Boys from Cat Island, Falcon from Nassau, Stone McEwan of Marsh Harbour and the Gully Roosters from Green Turtle Cay. To a background of Bahamian songs, calypso and other Caribbean

Please See **Festival** *Page 7*

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Duty Reductions Are Announced

The Government has announced their 2000/2001 budget which will go into effect the beginning of July 2000. This year's total expenditures will be $1077.1 million and for the first time in recent years the income will balance the expenditures. The government is not increasing any taxes nor introducing any new taxes but rather is reducing the duty rates on a number of items.

The budget speech was delivered to Parliament by the Hon. Sir William Allen, Minister of Finance, on May 31, 2000.

Some specific changes in duty rates are suggested as follows:

- Eliminating customs duties on all computers and related parts effective immediately.
- Duty exemption on building materials for another two years for the southern Bahama Islands.
- Reduction of duty on golf carts from 50 percent to 20 percent.
- Elimination of duty on computer perforated paper.
- Exemption of duty for members of the Agricultural Cooperative Society.
- Elimination of duty on printers' paper for registered printers.
- Elimination of duty on cameras including digital cameras.
- Reduction of duty on video games used with television and hand held video games from 65 percent to 35 percent.
- Extension for another year of the duty exemption for importing new taxi cabs and omnibuses.

New Budget Emphasizes E-Business

On May 31 the Hon. Sir William Allen, Minister of Finance, highlighted the budget for 2000/2001 for a joint session of Parliament. He spoke at length on the favorable economic situation in The Bahamas at this time. He reviewed government's goals and stated his assessment of the bright future which lies ahead for the country.

The government is committed to assuring every Bahamian a good education and training, quality health care, decent housing, business and employment opportunities and a safe and healthy environment. The budget focuses closely on these goals. The recurrent expenditures are estimated at $949.1 million of which education will receive $178.6 million or 23 percent of the budget and health services will receive $142.3 million or 19 percent. The capital expenditures are estimated to be $128 million. This will be spent mainly for education, hospitals, police, defence and some for public corporations.

The Bahamas government is emphasizing the immense new opportunities in the potential development as a center for e-business. This is a new era - the Information Age. The country needs to become a knowledge-based economy. Electronic commerce can bring about tremendous economic growth and productivity.

For the past 50 years the economy has been based on tourism, financial services and the development of Freeport as an industrial center. The country has been successful resulting in the living standards for ordinary Bahamians comparing favourably with most developed countries. Government expects the economy to prosper and expand.

The Ministry of Finance is working with IBM Canada to develop a Policy Document on e-business, setting out the potential of e-business for employment and income. The Document will suggest policies and legislation that this government can implement to make the Bahamas a center for e-business.

Government is proceeding urgently with privatization of Batelco and liberalization of the communications sector within the Bahamas to support the idea of e-business. The country must have information technology and a competitive telecommunications infrastructure and must provide an environment where everyone is capable of using the new technologies and can learn new skills as technologies advance. The government goal is a networked society where business including government business is performed by the use of information and communications technologies. To facilitate this the government will provide free Internet access to all schools.

Training in computers for adults will be initiated throughout the country. They plan to use classrooms after school hours for this adult training. Teachers will be trained first who in turn will become trainers in the adult program. Government is allocating $1 million for this program.

International Programs Cause Concerns

There has been concerned about globalization and its effect on small economies. During the Budget Speech presented to Parliament, the government commented on its participation in various international groups and the problems some of these

Please See Budget Page 23

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Lobster Wrapper

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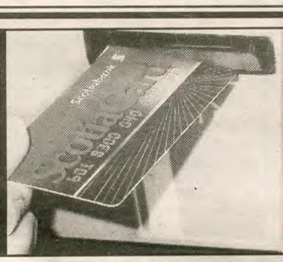

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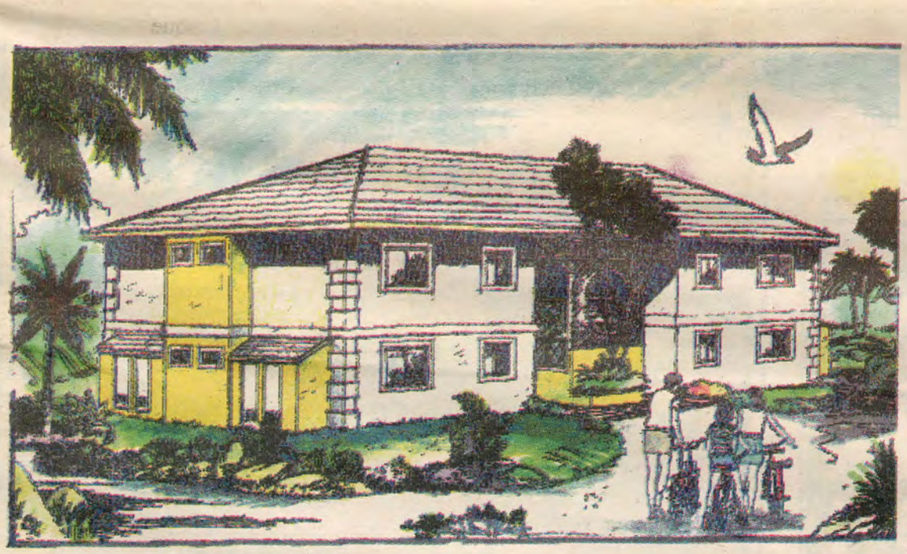

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News of the Cays

Hope Town

Sea Oats Replanted on Elbow Cay

By Stephanie Humblestone

The planting of 200,000 sea oats along Elbow Cay's dunes continues in earnest and is now in its seventh week with three-quarters of the six mile length of beach completed. Since early April approximately 20,000 sea oat plants have been flown in every Monday from Horticultural Systems in Florida, a company well known for its expertise in dune plants. They have been responsible for the successful planting along Florida's panhandle and many large government projects.

Hurricane Floyd wreaked damage to Elbow Cay's dunes, leveling them and destroying what Nature took an immeasurable amount of time to build. For a period of time after the hurricane Elbow Cay's residents were uncertain what to do, firstly, how to re-build the dunes and secondly, how to strengthen them against the elements.

The Hope Town District Council, Hope Town Fire and Rescue and the Hope Town Association worked relentlessly to solve both issues. Chris Thompson, Kevin Albury and Tony Bennett, three Hope Town residents who are active in all areas of the community, were largely responsible for the dune restoration, for bringing in large machinery for the beach scraping and for raising the necessary funds.

The next phase was finding a plant which was strong and hardy. Mr. Rob Barron, a biologist from Delray Beach, Florida, was consulted for professional advice. He made several visits to Elbow Cay and advised sea oats. They are plants which flourish in areas where sand is drifting and can grow up through as much as two feet of new sand per year. They are persistent in heat, drought, salt and lack of nutrients. They are thought to be the most effective plant for stabilizing primary sand dunes against wind erosion. Although wave erosion may undercut the edge of established sands, the sea oats usually withstand the pounding and overwash of severe storms.

With this information at hand a committee was formed specifically for the planting of sea oats, a massive project which required organisation. The committee members, Suzanne Bethel, Scott Patterson, Kevin Albury, Patti Myers, Chris and Peggy Thompson, Debbie Patterson and Tony Bennett, together worked to bring the plants to the island and their subsequent planting. "This has only been one phase. None of this could have happened without the restoration of the dunes and the efforts of Chris Thompson, Kevin Albury and Tony Bennett," said Patti.

Every day for the past seven weeks two teams have been hard at work. Carey Sullivan-Cash headed a team of four in the north end and Scott Patterson did the same thing in the south. Both Carey and Scott were instructed by Rob Barron on how to best plant them and the optimum places. "The crews plant about 400 an hour," said Patti, who described the efficient procedure. First, a metal drain pipe pushes a hole about eight inches into moist sand. The plant plug is then dropped in, and a half teaspoon of special fertiliser follows, taking care not to touch the roots. A PVC pipe is then used to pound the sand to get rid of air pockets. The team of four accomplish this in a relay system, following one after the other at each stage.

"We have another two to three weeks more of planting," said Patti, who estimates that very shortly the two teams will be meeting somewhere along the dunes. She also reported that there are some places where the plants may not have taken root and which will be checked and replanted.

This is truly a community effort which not only reflects a sense of commitment to the island and its welfare but also a demonstration how people can weather adversity and work together in harmony.

AA Meetings

The AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) group of Marsh Harbour meets Mondays and Thursdays on 6:30 p.m. at New Visions Church in Abaco Shopping Centre.

The AA group in Hope Town meets Mondays at 7 p.m. at the clinic.

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Tourism Board Suggest Changes

A Tourism Advisory Board meeting was held in Treasure Cay on June 2 and 3. At this meeting representatives of the Ministry of Tourism met with travel consultants forming an advisory board which counsels the Ministry. The Board consists of about 40 persons.

The Hon. C.A. Smith, Minister of Tourism, opened the meeting. Mr. Smith outlined the goals of his Ministry which is now emphasizing the variety of experiences a visitor can enjoy in many areas of The Bahamas. He praised Abaco for providing many different experiences and gave a brief history of Abaco with its Loyalist influences in its work ethic, religion and architecture. He explained that Abaco has a diversified economy with tourism, fishing and agriculture all contributing to the good way of life that Abaconians enjoy. Abaco offers a wide range of accommodations for tourists.

Tourism is stressing the wide variety of Bahamian experiences that visitors can enjoy. The Advisory Board felt that this emphasis was important and wondered why it took so long for The Bahamas to realize they should feature this asset. The Director General of Tourism, Mr. Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace, gave an update on recent programs which the Ministry has developed. He commended the efforts that brought The Bahamas back to normal after a devastating hurricane season last year. The recovery has been remarkably fast and tourism has returned much quicker than other destinations which have suffered in the past.

One development which is greatly benefitting the small resort owners is the development of the Internet. This allows bonefish lodges and small hotels and resorts the same access to the market as large resorts with their generous marketing budgets. The Ministry is encouraging these small tourist accommodations to use the Internet extensively and effectively. The Ministry has recently revised their Web site and continues to upgrade it making it more appealing and comprehensive.

Mr. Vanderpool-Wallace included in his review the improvement in air service and airport improvements. He updated the group on the recent developments of tourism on Grand Bahama which is recovering well from several years of changes and extensive renovations. Grand Bahama is now a major tourist destination as well as an industrial center.

The Tourism Advisory Board is composed of Ministry executives and professional travel planners which meet twice yearly to discuss trends in the market and analyze programs to improve our tourism product. The group met each morning in working sessions at Treasure Cay, then visited Green Turtle Cay and Hope Town in the afternoons. Their final reception and dinner party was held at Different of Abaco on Saturday night where Ms. Nettica Symonette hosted the group.

Obituaries

Euphemia Harriet Stratton passed away at her home in Marsh Harbour on May 23. Her funeral was held at the Bible Truth Hall on May 27. Officiating were Bro. Byron Crosby assisted by Bro. Bobby Higgs, Bro. Robbie Higgs, Donald and Gregory Roberts. Interment was in the Marsh Harbour Cemetery.

Mrs. Stratton is survived by her husband Robert Lucien Stratton; daughters Amarylis Key and Astrid Stratton; son-in-law Lewis Key; daughter-in-law Joy Stratton; grandsons Randy Key, Al Key and Ian Stratton; granddaughters Liann Key Kaighin and April Hewitt; grandson-in-law Jim Kaighin; granddaughters-in-law Emily Key and Adrianne Key; great-grandsons Alistair Key Jr., Robert Key and Lonnie Key; great granddaughter Amy Key; brother Roscoe Albury and family; sister Lily Stratton and family; sister Thelma Lowe and family; sister Flossie Albury and family; sister-in-law Persis Higgs and family; Christine Roberts and family; and many other relatives and friends.

Lathario Lavrin Johnson, 4 months, of Dundas Town died on May _ The funeral was held on May 27 at the St. John the Baptist Anglican Church in Marsh Harbour. Officiating was Fr. Hugh Chaplin. Interment was in the Dundas Town Public Cemetery.

He is survived by his mother Latrisha Burrows; father Ricardo Johnson; grandmothers Lorane Burrows, Gertrude Johnson and Geneva Strachan; grandfathers Elliott Johnson and Peter Burrows; aunts; uncles; cousins; and many others.

Caroline "Aunt Carie" Davis, 87, of Moore's Island passed away. Her funeral was held on June 3 at the Greater Bethel Baptist Church on Moore's Island. Officiating was Rev. Hayward Swain assisted by Pastor Nixon Simms. Interment was in the Moore's Island Public Cemetery.

She is survived by sons Ervin, Harry and Phillip Davis; daughter Remilda Cornish; brothers Ben and Louis Dames; grandchildren; great-grandchildren; great-great-grandchildren; nephews; nieces; and many relatives and friends.

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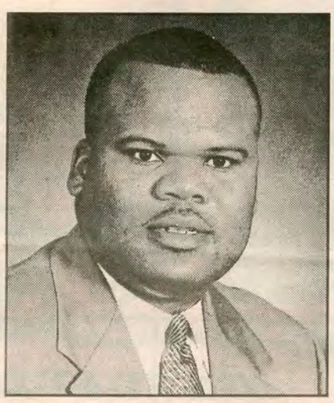

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South Abaco News

Cherokee Sound

By Lee Pinder

First, I'd like to apologize for referring to Noel Lowe as Noel Sands. As a dear neighbour friend of ours used to say, "My forgetter works real well."

Next, get well wishes should go out to Dee Albury, who got a very bad cut between his thumb and forefinger while cleaning a dolphin. I understand it had to be sewn inside before it could be stitched up outside. It must have been a hinderance since it was on his left hand and he is left-handed. But we hear he is on the mend and already back out on the boat *The Long Shot*, our local crawfishing boat where he is captain and part owner.

In addition, we hear Steven Chea is also coming along nicely after a terrible accident he suffered at his work. Steve's job is working with all types of heavy equipment, and his knee got crushed while he was operating one of the pieces of machinery. He had to be taken to Nassau for emergency surgery but has now been released from the hospital and returned home. I'm sure he has a long road of therapy and recovery in front of him as we all wish him the very best.

If you have driven the Cherokee road lately, you've noticed a new road being pushed through to North Cay or Nor Cay as the locals call it. We understand it has been purchased by an Abaconian who plans to build a home there. Although it doesn't give the appearance of being very large, we have been told that it is, in fact, as large as the settlement of Cherokee in acreage. It will seem strange to look out over the Sound and see a building being erected. It has always been a part of our fantastic landscape. But then, that is probably why the new owner purchased the Cay in the first place because of its remoteness and beauty.

Everywhere seems to get rain but us. The drought continues and our yards look brown and dry. Hopefully, we will get some of those summer showers soon.

School News

The end of the school year is near, tests are being taken and the work load is slowing down. Everyone everywhere is getting ready for summertime and Cherokee is no different. People are already thinking about vacation time. A time for camping, barbecues and cookouts, ball games and swimming. In other words, a time to relax. People are working, all of Abaco is sprouting new or remodeled buildings, all seems to be well in paradise.

There will be a Fund Day on the 10th of June. It will include the raffle drawing, a cookout and some fun games. The students have been divided into Red and Blue teams and the winners will receive a very special prize. There are going to be egg races and balloon tosses, thread the needle, three-legged races, wheel-barrow races and a tugs-o-war plus peanut in the straw and balancing competitions. The goal is to raise money for new desks and blackboards which are very badly needed. It promises to be lots of fun, and we are hopeful everyone will come out.

Church News

The annual Bahamas Conference of Methodist Churches was held on Abaco for the very first time in over 200 years over the last week in May under a huge tent erected just for their coming.

During the day there were meetings and workshops with a little sight-seeing thrown in on the side to show off our beautiful island. In the evenings the crowds met under the big tent to hear the wonderful musicians and singers plus some very powerful preaching by the many guest speakers. The person in charge of transportation told me it was no small job getting everyone where they were supposed to be at any given time, in addition to providing housing and food for everyone. In the end it all worked out as planned.

The community of Cherokee and Epworth Chapel were proud to host approximately one-third of the 160 delegates at a cookout on the beach on Saturday afternoon. A near perfect day where the sun shone brightly with enough shade from the Casuarina trees and a lovely light breeze off a very calm and peaceful azure ocean. The setting was discussed by some of those present. It was generally agreed that it could not have been duplicated anywhere else in the world at that particular moment no matter how hard we might try. After the cookout a workshop was held in the church for those who had signed up to attend.

The conference came to a very successful and satisfactory ending on Sunday morning with one last meeting under the big tent before everyone returned to their respective homes. Thirty-three sister churches throughout the Bahamas who are members of the BCMC ended their seventh annual conference.

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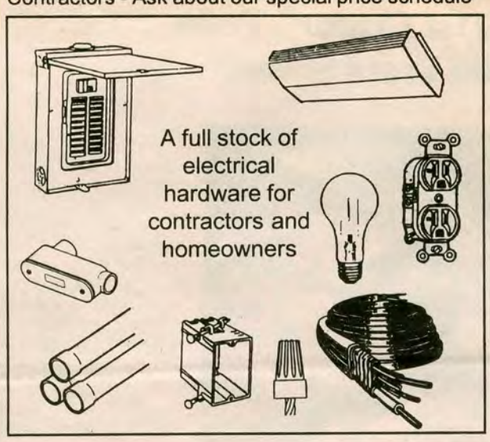
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North Abaco News

Festival

From Page 1

music people danced well into the night.

The event continued nightly until 3 a.m. with no reported incidences. Mr. Ferguson described those present as a "cross section" of people with a surprising number of tourists. The waters between the ferry dock and Green Turtle Cay were full of yachts drawn to this first ever music festival on Abaco.

"We would have had a larger crowd from Nassau if Bahamasair had not cancelled and left a lot of disappointed people at the airport in Nassau," said Mr. Ferguson, Chairman of the North Abaco Festival Committee. "This was truly a family gathering," he continued. Other members are Treasurer Melissa Parker, Consultant Ronald Simms, Hubert Smith and Public Relations Officer Don Cornish.

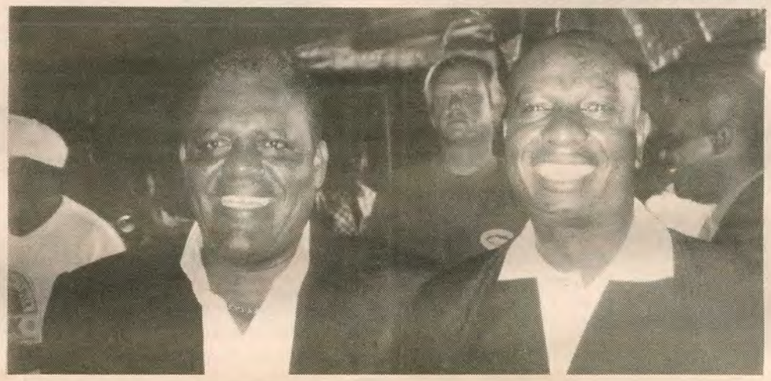
Apart from being a fun event, it was organised as a fund raiser for a fire engine for the recently formed fire department in Cooper's Town. Although it was not as great a financial success as hoped, costs were covered and Mr. Ferguson confirmed that monies would be in place to contribute towards the fire truck. The main sponsors were the North Abaco District Council, Abaco Markets, Disney World, Lowe's Pharmacy, Canadian Imperial Bank, the Community of Green Turtle Cay and Craig Roberts of Treasure Cay.

Mr. Ferguson is confident that next year will attract more musicians and performers. Now that the groundwork has been done this year, it will be an even greater success.

Above: A member of the Rake & Scrape band "Lassie Do Boys" from Cat Island is shown scratching the saw.

Above right: Tourists as well as Abaconians enjoyed the music festival held at the Treasure Cay ferry dock in North Abaco.

Right: One of the guests was the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Hubert A. Ingraham, who is shown enjoying the music with Senior Deputy Administrator Joseph Ferguson.



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The Editor Says – Affordable Rentals Are Needed

Government's latest subdivision on Abaco is designed for those on the lower rungs of the economic ladder. The lots will be smaller than those offered in the Central Pines Estates South of Dundas Town. They will be similar in size to many of the smaller lots in the Greater Marsh Harbour area. The houses that will be built there will probably range from one bedroom 400 square foot houses to three or more bedroom homes in the 800 - 1,000 square foot range. The lots will easily accommodate these houses.

Provision is being made for three church sites, two parks and a area near the entrance for government and commercial buildings. Business-oriented persons will be encouraged to open shops suitable for the 300 lot community. We could guess a gas station, beauty parlor, convenience store and prepared food outlets, either take-away or small restaurants will spring up. It is hoped that applications can be accepted by August of this year.

Land speculation will be discouraged and efforts will be made to ensure that all lots sold are actually built on and occupied by the owners. It is not clear if duplexes and other types of multi-family units will be allowed. During one question and answer session it was thought that multi-family apartments would not be allowed as government did not want absentee landlords which frequently leads to run down units and a subsequent lowering of neighboring property values.

Workers who own or are financing their own home are to be commended but we must not expect every worker to embrace at home ownership.

Somewhere in the overall scheme there must be allowance for multi-family units whether at this site or elsewhere. It is not real to expect that everyone who is living and working in the Bahamas wants to own a house. Many persons are satisfied to rent. Persons may be here temporarily or want to get a feel for the area before committing to permanent housing. Some people are content to rent forever and not be burdened with the upkeep and maintenance a house requires.

New workers to an area nearly always rent for a year or two while they size the area up and make long term decisions.

Housing in Central Abaco is scarce even while construction is booming. Seven of the ten residential construction applications submitted at the May 29th Central Abaco Town Planning meeting were for multi-family units. We do not have statistics but feel that more than half of all residential applications in the greater Marsh Harbour area are for duplexes and apartments. They are rented as fast as they are built.

Frequently the owner lives in one of units while the other one or two units are rented with the income making the mortgage payment at the bank. If there is a demand for these units in the middle income sector, surely there is an equal or greater demand in the lower income levels.

One suggestion would be to require those wanting to build multi-family housing to buy their lots in that area of Central Pines Estates that will allow duplexes and apartments. This would keep the affordable subdivision for single family residences and bring the multi-family buildings closer to town where visibility and neighborhood pride may help enforce acceptable standards.

There is a shortage of qualified labour in central Abaco. If multi-family dwellings are not allowed, we are going to perpetuate the labour shortage. The argument may be valid that some absentee owners of low cost duplexes and apartments do not properly maintain their properties. This problem is not unique to the Bahamas. Working class people rent housing all over the world and there must be answers out there somewhere.

Reasonably priced and available apartments might encourage Bahamians from other areas to bet their future on Abaco.

We are not advocating that the new affordable subdivision be made into a low cost apartment complex. That would be a disaster. However, there must be rules and guidelines that would allow an acceptable mix of single and low density multi-family residences somewhere for low income families.

Bank managers rent houses. Nurses, teachers and carpenters rent houses. Why should we expect that everyone on the low end of the pay scale wants to own land and build and not utilize rental housing?

In My Humble Opinion... Service with a Scowl

By Stephanie Humblestone

Don't be surprised if you see me carting a polystyrene take-away box back to work at noon or sitting in my car munching on a sandwich. I may have just added to my list another "place not to eat" in Marsh Harbour. The food smells good in most of the restaurants in our small capital but quite frankly the service often stinks. I shudder for tourists who are subjected to such shoddy treatment, and I also shudder for the absentee proprietor who is unaware of how customers are being treated.

I was galvanised into writing this column after a recent luncheon experience with two young people. The service at a restaurant in Marsh Harbour was so sloppy that, had I been alone and not pressed for time, I would have walked out. The waitress shuffled across to the table, slung three menus at us and then shuffled back to a wall against which she propped herself. After several rude yawns and some sucking of the teeth, she returned to "take the order." We felt like we were intruding upon her personal space, uninvited and unwanted.

Her voice was so inaudible that I thought she had a speech impediment. I realised this was not so when she slouched back into the corner after haphazardly taking the order - which she got wrong - and shouted at the top of her voice to a friend across the restaurant. "Hey! What's happening, girl?" ("Nothing!" I was tempted to reply. "Absolutely nothing!") I think I even detected a little animation on her face but I could not be sure. I imagine she saves that for after work. The sullen, lifeless look is the one she dons for us - the poor unsuspecting customers.

What should have been a happy experience was a totally miserable one. During the thirty-five minute wait no apology was offered along with no food. Also during that time two other customers came in and were served ahead of us. Again no explanation. Any attempts on our part to communicate with the waitress fell on barren ground. She simply did not want to be there - and neither did I.

"Excuse me," I said, "Do you have any idea how much longer it will be as these two have to get back to school?" I motioned towards the two famished students, both of whom work in restaurants after school. "She wouldn't last five min-

Please See Humblestone Page 24

All About Town - by Isobel Sherman

I Am an Animal Lover

There is no doubt in my mind that ever since I could remember I have been an animal lover. I can remember when I walked to school in New Jersey when I was six years old, if someone's dog or cat was just sitting in their owner's yard, I would think it was lost and I would take it home. Thank goodness that even though life was not wonderful growing up, my mother and my father liked animals also. If my dad was home as his job had him traveling, he would put me and the cat or dog in the car and drive me to where I picked up this so called "lost animal."

A couple of weeks ago I heard some horrible stories about the way some persons on Abaco treat animals. Abuse of animals has been happening here for probably forever as it happens everywhere else when persons like to see the pain and blood and suffering deaths of some of God's creatures which cannot help themselves.

This trend must stop and the only way to stop it is through education. I had a brother who as a young boy tortured a six-week-old puppy. When the puppy died, he laughed. That brother grew up to be a child abuser as well as an alcoholic. The sister grew up with a cat or dog or both in her lap and got much solace from her pets.

It hurt me last Saturday when I saw that a two year old dog had to be put down because of a disease that could have been prevented. It hurts me when I see a dead dog lying on the side of the road. It hurts me when I see little children pick up rocks and boulders to throw at dogs and cats and it hurts me when I hear stories of how dogs are poisoned or animals are tortured or mistreated.

Some may laugh at what I am about to write but if it was not for the Grace of God and His Master Plan, some of those humans who mistreat animals and even some who are kind to animals could have ended up as an animal in this earthly life instead of a human. Would you like to be burned, poisoned, beaten, hit with a car deliberately or hit with rocks? Some of you will say Isobel Sherman is crazy but just stop and think about it for a minute. There is not a living creature on earth who asked to come into this world and that includes humans. Since God has put us at the top of the animal kingdom, that means responsibility and mistreatment is not responsibility. It is irresponsibility.

A Plea to Help Our Police

Has anyone had occasion to visit the Marsh Harbour Police Station recently? Maybe I should say in the past few years instead of recently. Last Sunday I was at the Police Station.

Before I go on, I know that there will be persons who say I am partial not only because my husband is a former policeman but he is now a reservist.

When I walked into the station, I was appealed. Talk about working conditions! Our law enforcement officers on Abaco have to be depressed when they report to work. The station is falling to pieces. It is not attractive at all. It depressed me the short time I was there. How can we say we support our police and allow them to work under those conditions? Some may answer that by saying the police are suppose to be out of the station on patrol. That I will not dispute but at least two have to stay at the station and man the diary and take phone calls.

If downstairs was bad, I would hate to see the living quarters upstairs.

Marsh Harbour is long overdue for a proper police station and I am sure the rent that is paid every month for the "ugly green station" could be put to use paying off a loan or mortgage to build a proper station with more than one holding cell and proper offices and proper living quarters for those single officers who are sta-

Please See Sherman Page 20

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Credit: Tuppy Weatherford for parrot and lighthouse on Page 1
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Contributors: John Hedden, Lightbourn Realty, Dr. Sharon Kossack, Mary H. MacKenzie, Lee Pinder, Leroy Thompson

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Letters to the Editor

Trucks Need to Follow Rules

To the Editor,

Headline: Man Killed by Flying Toilet

Although this, in fact, was not the case, it could have been yesterday. As I was walking along minding my own business, a truck drove past and the top of a toilet flew out of the back and came uncomfortably close. The driver who shall remain nameless was carrying a load to the dump which was not securely in the truck and was not covered. When I confronted him, both he and the other fellow in the truck thought it was funny. That is the main problem right now. Nobody seems to be taking the problem of debris falling out of trucks and onto the roads seriously.

Again, the other day I followed a trail of gravel and sand all the way from Spooners down to Eastern Shores. This is dangerous and it's about time that the owners and drivers of these trucks realized this. Anybody on a motorcycle or scooter going around a corner and hitting sand or gravel is going to end up with a case of road rash. All you have to do is ask Dan Wiltfang as he can tell you of numerous cases where this has already happened.

Now I'm not a great advocate of rules that intrude on my privacy. However, this is a situation where the local authorities must start to enforce the road traffic rules. Unfortunately, it is my understanding that at this time the local police are not in a position to write tickets the way they do in Nassau and Freeport. It is a shame that they should even have to, but it is now time for some sort of action.

Yours truly,

Sid Dawes

Petition to Have Road Graded

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

I am one of many residents of the settlement of Snake Cay and have been living in the area for many years.

The road which is several miles long leads into the settlement from the Great Abaco Highway to the coastline and is not only used by the residents but also by trades persons and by fishermen and those who occasionally dock their tankers in the harbour there.

The road has never been paved, only graded from time to time. Needless to say, since the occurrence of the three hurricanes at the end of 1999 the road is in such disrepair that it is extremely difficult to navigate it on foot (as many of us must do), not to mention by vehicle.

At night time the lack of street lights makes it deadlier to drive than ever before.

Sir, the residents of Snake Cay do not necessarily choose to live so far from the rest of populated Abaco, but most of us have no other place to go. We feel that the government is able to assist the residents, at least by making the road useable so that we may go back and forth to church, to school and to work each day.

Attached to this petition is a list of signatures of the residents of Snake Cay as well as those others who must use the road. Please, Sir, give your attention to this urgent matter.

Ms. Ann Marshall

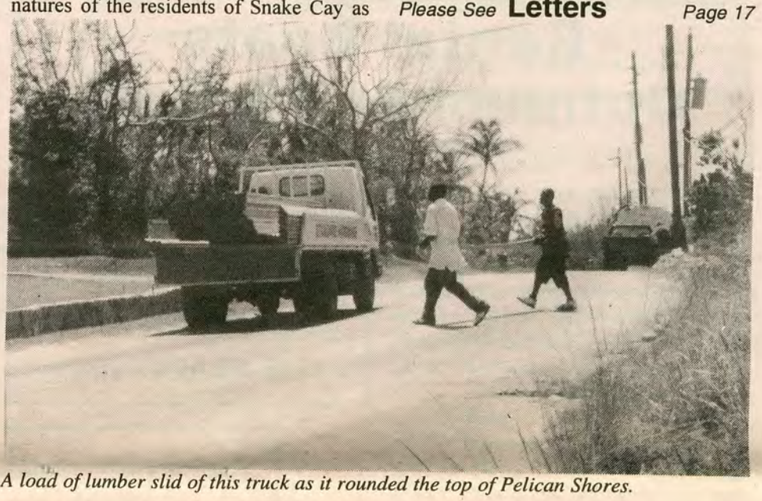
Tutorial School Will Close

The Abaco Learn Tutorial School will observe its summer recess of July and August. I have been the founder, teacher and tutor of the school. Due to my returning to teach in my native United States, I do not expect to resume the operation for the school year 2000-2001. I would like to thank my many supportive students who have literally come from Crown Haven, Sandy Point and settlements in between. Special appreciation goes out to the *Every Child Counts* program that has provided so much by way of special education teacher training and classes.

Charles Nightingale

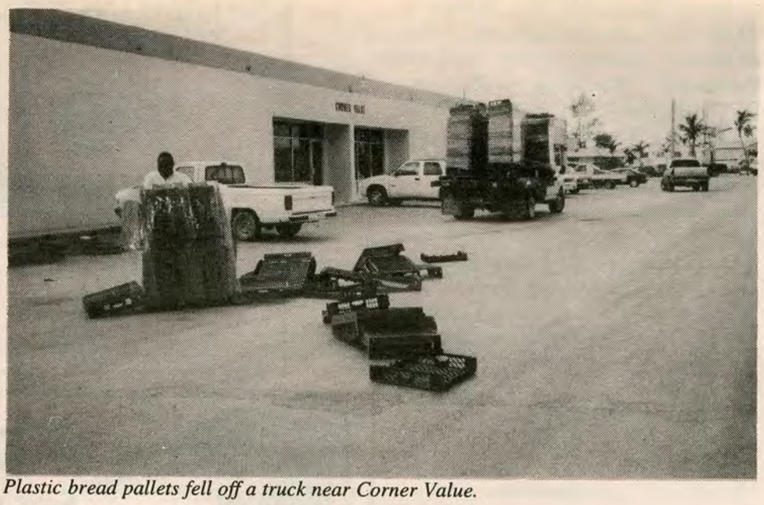
Please See **Letters** *Page 17*

Groceries littered the road in front of CIBC Bank. All four of these photographs were taken in the last two weeks of May.



A load of lumber slid of this truck as it rounded the top of Pelican Shores.

Traffic on Don MacKay Boulevard was seriously hampered when plywood slid off the back of a pick up truck.



Plastic bread pallets fell off a truck near Corner Value.

Congratulations

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From your grandmother Enamae Parker

Kennisha made the honour roll once again and passed the entrance exam to Jordon Prince William High School.

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Shipping Companies Join Forces

Marsh Harbour Shipping Company, Ltd. of Marsh Harbour and Tropical Shipping Company of Riviera Beach, Florida, have joined forces in servicing the shipping needs of Abaco. Marsh Harbour Shipping is dedicated to providing excellent service for its Abaco customers and feels that this joint venture will assist in this.

The *M/V Margarita I* will join the Tropical fleet of 16 vessels and will continue to service Abaco weekly. Marsh Harbour Shipping will continue to manage, own and control all the Abaco customer services as agent for the new alliance and will now be known as the Marsh Harbour Line. This will allow the Marsh Harbour management to focus totally on providing Abaco customers with dependable service. Tropical Shipping will manage the vessel and freight equipment. There will be no major change in the States as the Marsh Harbour Line will still retain the services of Heavy Lift at the Port of Palm Beach.

This change will allow the shipping company to offer new services and can adjust to the changing needs of Abaco more rapidly. Shipping is vital to the economy of Abaco and this service will allow more flexible service adapting to the specific needs of the island. Eventually they will provide more roll-on roll-off services.

Tropical Shipping Company is a very large company based at the Port of Palm Beach and ships extensively throughout the Caribbean. They have equipment of all types and they have the capacity for international shipping to the Far East or Europe.

Zion Baptist Youth Department donated boxes of food to Haitian children left homeless by the recent fire in the Pigeon Pea area. They raised the money by a drama production they staged under the direction of Leroy Thompson and Chris Dean.

Rental Boats Outnumber SD Cars

By Stephanie Humblestone

There are almost three times the number of rental boats on Abaco as self drive cars which comes as no surprise considering the waters are more enticing than the roads. However, despite the fact that rental boats number over 150, there are very few available right now and reservations have to be placed well in advance both on the mainland and in the cays.

"It's like finding a needle in a haystack," said Junior Mernard of Sea Spray Resort on Elbow Cay which has a fleet of seven, mostly 20-foot Albury Brothers. Blue Wave Boat Rentals in Marsh Harbour has ten boats from 21-foot to 26-foot, Duskys, Ocean Pros and Paramounts. "Everything is out," they confirmed. Rich's Rentals, also in Marsh Harbour, which has a fleet of 26, described the demand for rental boats at this time of the year as "very big."

Between March and August the boat rental industry flourishes in the Abacos with many tourists calling ahead to reserve boats, many of whom are return visitors who will use the same rental company. Some like Sea Spray Resort will rent not only to tourists but to their hotel guests. Many of the rental companies are long established with loyal clientele like Island Marine on Parrot Cay which has been in business for 39 years and has 24 boats most of which are presently out.

Most of the companies favour one or sometimes two makes and models, which may vary in length. For example, the majority of rentals boats at JIC Rentals in Treasure Cay is 24-foot Anglers. Others, such as Sea Horse Boat Rentals located in Marsh Harbour and on Elbow Cay and have been in business for twenty five years, offer a wider range. Another example is Dave's Dive Shop on Elbow Cay which has been operating for 22 years and is currently changing hands.

Rental boats are required to have life jackets, first aid kits and flare kits on board. Many of the rental companies supply VHF radios. The rental employees are always willing to answer any questions concerning the craft and navigating the Abacos. The stipulations for renting a boat are that the person has to be 18 or over and pay a security deposit which is usually in the form of a credit card. The deposit is usually in the region of $500.

No boat rental company likes to turn customers away when the demand outweighs the supply. Rental boat companies urge tourists and vacationers to call ahead to reserve boats. Without access to the waters of Abaco, a vacation here is severely marred.

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School News

Abaco Central High School

Emergency Preparedness Stressed

By Isobel Sherman

Mr. M. Wallace, who is in charge of Environmental Health in the Northern Bahamas, visited Abaco Central High School on May 11th. He was accompanied by Ms. Bertha McPhee, Environmental Health officer for Abaco.

The purpose of his visit was to make students aware of the types of emergencies which could happen on Abaco and to urge the students to get involved in advance planning for these emergencies if one happened. His talk did not concern only hurricane preparedness. Mr Wallace talked to the students about other environmental emergencies such as oil spills, forest fires, chemical pollution, disposal of garbage and water pollution. He urged them to form groups such as Boy Scouts and learn about these environmental emergencies and how to deal with them.

St. Francis de Sales

Teacher Was Honoured

By Isobel Sherman

Mrs. Barbara Thompson, a teacher at St. Francis de Sales School, was one of the teachers honoured by the Primary Principals' Association in Nassau during Teacher Appreciation week. Mrs. Thompson has been teaching for forty-three years and was with the Ministry of Education for many of those years. She has been at St. Francis for the past three years

Peer Counselors Receive Certificates

By Isobel Sherman

On May 20th a workshop was held by Dr. Judy Cohen of Florida International University for the Peer Counselors who have been training in the *Every Child Counts* programme. All of the counselors are from Abaco Central High School. Those receiving certificates were Bernadette Jean Noel, Valencia Edgecombe, Shunned Lightbourne, Luzena Dermercy, Clara Alcime, Tasia Murray, Antwanya Miller, Dillon Balkaran, Ebony Stanford, Keora Brown, Waseela Rahim, Teringue Pennerman, Adam Key, Eugenia Chapman, Crystal Bostwick and Collin Scavella.

Student Is Honoured

By Isobel Sherman

Ms. Juanyette Stuart of Dundas Town was awarded the trophy of the Best Business Student at Florida Memorial College in Miami, Florida, recently. Juanyette is an accounting major and just completed her junior year at the college. She is on a scholarship at the school. She will be working in an accounting firm in Texas for the summer.

Business Briefs

New Look for Abaco Treasures

By Isobel Sherman

When Hurricane Floyd hit Abaco in September 1999, Abaco Treasures suffered severe damage. The roof was damaged and as a result there was water damage. In addition, water poured through the doors when the road flooded with the water reaching bottom shelves of the showcases.

Owner George Albury is a man with impeccable taste and was always very proud of his store. So the damages done to his store upset him very much. His plans to renovate were hampered by the length of time it took to obtain the supplies necessary. Before Christmas the roof was repaired. Mr. George Albury had to close Abaco Treasures for two weeks this spring to completely renovate the store with new showcases and a new layout. In early May Abaco Treasures opened with its brand new look. It looks much more spacious and much brighter with new lighting.

Mr. Albury still carries jewelry, china and crystal all displayed with specific lighting to highlight the beautiful items. Additionally there are T shirts and a book section as well as a small greeting card display. Special displays such as birthday angels or candles are featured. There are even leather goods, mostly purses for women. One favorite section is a large perfume display.

Outside Mr. Albury has changed the look by adding a new awning from the front entrance around the building to the side door.

If you liked Abaco Treasures before, you will like it even better now. His friendly staff is always ready and willing to help you. By the way Abaco Treasures will have some of Abaco Central High School's required text books for sale.

A SMALL REQUEST FOR THE NATION'S PROGRESS

The Department of Statistics is presently conducting its annual Business Establishment survey. Our Government relies on this data collected from businesses and institutions to formulate policies. These policies enhance the revenue potential and service quality of all economic sectors.

All businesses involved in the production of goods and services everywhere in The Bahamas are asked to complete the Business Establishment Questionnaire and return it to the Department of Statistics, which assures the confidentiality of all the information it receives.

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Department of Statistics

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Central Abaco News

Committees Were Named

A Central Abaco District Disaster Preparedness meeting was held in Marsh Harbour on May 26 to organize appropriate committees. These committees will be responsible for their areas and will report to the Commander. The following committees were named:

• Communications will include local and off- island communications. Radio Abaco will provide pre-hurricane coverage for local residents. The Police Chief on Abaco will issue any official statements. It was concluded that for local contacts the local ministers will be valuable.

• Shelters Committee will be chaired by Sarone Kennedy. He will be assisted by Ms. Charlemae Fernander of Social Services, Mr. Jackson McIntosh of Education, the personnel from the Ministries of Environmental Health and Works. All shelters will be inspected as some were inadequate during Hurricane Floyd. The main shelter will be the Central Abaco Primary School. Mr. Kennedy stressed that each shelter needs a bilingual person to act as interpreter. Besides the school, they will use Zion Baptist Church in Murphy Town, St. Francis de Sales Church and School, the Anglican Hall and the Marsh Harbour Gospel Chapel in Marsh Harbour.

• Medical Committee will be chaired by Dr. Swarna and will include Trauma One, First Responders and private doctors.

• Search and Rescue chaired by John Hall of the Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire and Rescue, will include the Police, the Dundas Town Fire Department, Trauma One and BASRA.

• Church and Volunteer Committee will organize relief supplies, the staffing of shelters and be responsible for interpreters.

• Transportation and Evacuation, chaired by Patty Toler, will involve the police and local trucking companies. This committee will be responsible for moving supplies and people.

• Relief Supplies will be the responsibility of Social Services

• Utilities will include BEC, Batelco and Water and Sewerage

It was decided that the Command Center will be located at the Central Abaco Primary School. The group will work to see that committee chairman, the clinics, the police and each shelter will have VHF radios for communications in case the phone system is in-operational.

Additional Post Disaster Committees included the following.

• Road Clearing will be undertaken by Works, the fire departments, trucking firms and the utilities.

• Damage assessments will be carried out by the Administrator.

• Resettlement is by Social Services administration.

• Receiving relief supplies and donations will be done by the Administrator's office.

Never Give up Hope

By Stephanie Humblestone

Gracie Knowles of Marsh Harbour, well known to many as the owner of Victors and Price Slashers, truly has a vision – and it is not to open another store. She came up with the idea of establishing Hope House, a centre which would not only help the youth but also the elderly and the needy of Abaco.

For a long time Mrs. Knowles has been concerned about the lack of focus of many of our youth who are resistant to the teachings of the church. One of the main problems is that they have no place to go after school to enjoy wholesome activities. Abaco has no community centres and entertainment is limited.

Hope House would be a Christian centre with cadet programmes, cooking, sewing and craft classes. "All we need is a building," emphasised Mrs. Knowles. The building ideally should be situated close to the centre of town and must have a kitchen. She believes that there is somewhere for her as this can be beneficial to the community.

Passports Issued Locally

By Stephanie Humblestone

A one-week service for processing Bahamian passport applications is now available for eligible persons at the Administrators' offices in Marsh Harbour, Cooper's Town and Sandy Point every Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Applicants are invited to pick up forms during the week and have them fully completed along with relevant documents before submitting them. In some cases, for example children under the age of 18 and first time passport holders, an interview will be scheduled. Other instances may require investigations to be carried out in Nassau. However, renewals will be routine and issued within a week.

The staff at the Administrators' offices have been trained by Mr. Jack Thompson, Chief Passport Officer in Nassau. The service is a valuable one for people on Abaco.

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Rescheduled Flights Are Helpful

By Stephanie Humblestone

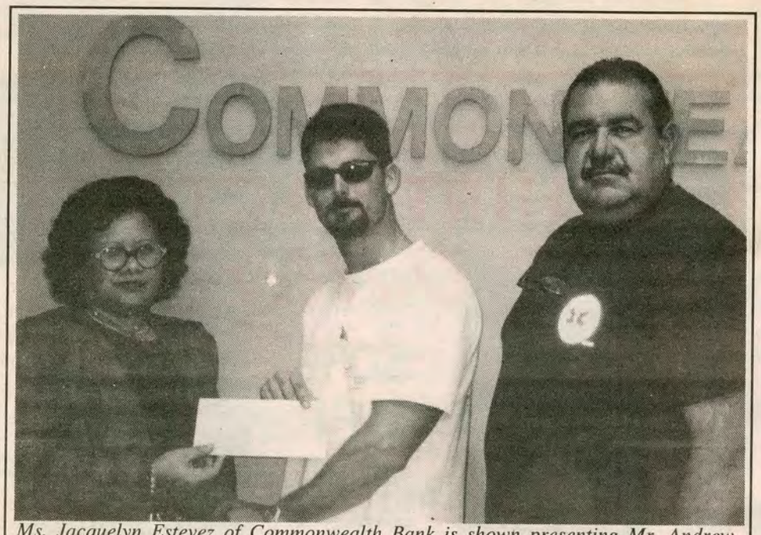
Effective April 1st changes were made to scheduled flights between Abaco and New Providence. There are now two daily flights into Nassau from Marsh Harbour, a morning flight at 7:50 a.m. and an evening flight at 7:25 p.m. Additionally, there is a flight at 2:50 p.m. every day except Tuesdays and Wednesday. Daily flights from Nassau are 6:30 a.m. and 6:05 p.m. with a flight at 10:30 a.m. every day except Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

The revised schedule is better for most people as it allows a full day's shopping or business in the capital. The flights are very popular and according to Beryl Gibbs, a ticket agent at the Marsh Harbour Airport, business is better.

"Some people who are going standby come out to the airport at 5:30 a.m. and sometimes there are more standbys than those holding tickets," said Ms. Gibbs, who spoke positively of the changes.

This is definitely an improvement for those living on the mainland but for many on the cays it is now more difficult to make a one day return trip to Nassau. For example, in Hope Town the early flight leaves before the first ferry arrives in Marsh Harbour and the late flight arrives after the last ferry has departed. Chartering is expensive and it is hard to predict what time the Bahamasair flight will arrive in Marsh Harbour.

Hopefully, some solution will be found for those on the cays but meanwhile the service is running smoothly and the majority of the public is happy with being less rushed in Nassau.



Ms. Jacquelyn Estevez of Commonwealth Bank is shown presenting Mr. Andrew Pinder and Mr. Daniel Wiltfang with a generous donation for Trauma One, a volunteer operation which serves the entire island of Abaco.

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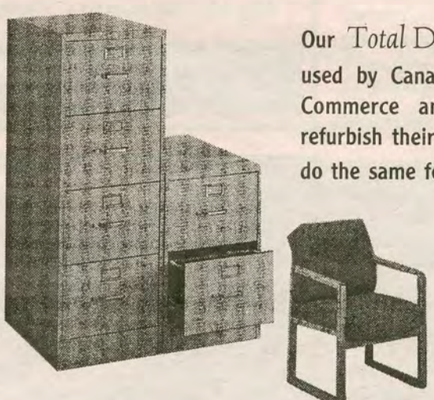

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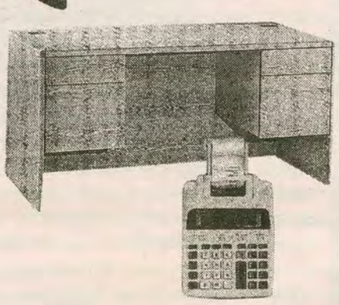

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Pat Bethel Records Our Growth

Mr. Patrick Bethel was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Rotary Club of Abaco on May 29. His topic for Rotary was the growth of the Marsh Harbour area, specifically during the past 20 - 25 years. In 1953 Mr. Bethel was the principal of the school in Cherokee. He advanced through the educational system and served in a variety of government posts in Nassau and overseas. He began his talk at Rotary by giving a brief history of the area.

Marsh Harbour and the nearby settlement of Maxwell Town was settled in May 1784 by dissatisfied residents of the first Abaco settlement, Carlton Point, situated at the northerly end of the Treasure Cay beach. The combined population of Marsh Harbour and Maxwell Town was 658.

Prosperity began to come to Abaco in 1900 with the lumber company at Wilson City employing hundreds of persons. That burst of activity ended at the beginning of World War I and by 1950 the future of Abaco looked bleak.

Mr. Bethel returned to Abaco in 1977 and began keeping statistics on the area. He shared those statistics which show the phenomenal growth of the area.

A comparison between the 1977- 1980 era and the present gives quite a contrast:

- Six rental cars in 1977 versus 60 today
- Fifty businesses in 1980 served the Marsh Harbour area versus 154 today, of which four exceed 150,000 square feet.
- Hotel Rooms numbered approximately 30 in 1977 versus the 250 now available.
- Marinas - two with 75 berths versus seven now with over 350 slips.
- Restaurants - three then versus 14 today
- Four businesses on the tourist strip versus 25 today.
- Two gas stations versus five today which dispense 4.5 million gallons of gas per year. The gasoline tax of $1.13 per gallon contributes $5.5 million in tax revenue to the Public Treasury, with fuel revenues exceeding $8 million for gas and diesel for the whole of Abaco.
- Three banks in 1980 are now overshadowed by six.
- Electrical demand was 1,200 KW in 1977 and now exceeds 12,000 Kilowatts with a steady increase in demand.
- The airport recorded 20,000 landings in 1999. Allowing for a ten-hour day, that gives an aircraft landing every 12 minutes. Those same aircraft eventually departed which would double the runway activity. On May 28, 2000, 125 take-off and landings were noted giving one every five minutes in a ten-hour day.
- Road Traffic reported 1056 vehicles in 1970 and now reports over 5600 on the roads today. In 1955 revenue for Marsh Harbour due to various vehicle licenses was reported at £4,214 which is approximately $12,000. Today over $1 million is collected in vehicle license fees alone.
- Selected years for Customs revenue in Marsh Harbour are approximately:

1965	$721,000
1970	$2.7 million
1990	$15.4 million
1999	$42 million

Additional revenues are collected in Nassau on goods trans-shipped to Abaco. Further revenue is generated locally from property taxes, business license fees , and departure taxes.

Mr. Bethel concluded by stating that the social and entertainment aspects of the Greater Marsh Harbour area have not kept pace with the economic advances.

Hurricane Season Opens

The 2000 hurricane season opened on June 1 and will continue through November 30. The predictions by hurricane specialists indicate a season with more storms than we experienced for the past couple of decades with 11 tropical storms of which seven will be hurricanes, three of them major. This is similar to the predictions for 1999. What is even more important than the number or strength of the storms is their landfall and this cannot be predicted.

Hurricane forecasters now have several new tools which will give them much more information. When this information is processed, they hope that predictions will be more accurate and will allow them to predict the storm's path longer in advance. Several new satellites will add much new information. One of them can measure rainfall over the tropical and subtropical areas of the world. Hurricanes frequently produce high amounts of rainfall and in some countries this produces flooding. Hurricane Mitch which hit Central America in 1998 killed thousands from the mud slides resulting from nearly three feet of rain. If flooding can be predicted more accurately, people can evacuate from low lying areas.

A second satellite now measures wind over much of the planet. Previously this information was spotty due to no satisfactory way of collecting this information. A third satellite can assess weather systems globally giving forecasters even more useful information. All this data will be processed by a super-computer which can make 30 billion calculations a second!

The key to survival in one of these devastating storms is preparation. Each family needs to get storm shutters and make sure that they have followed all suggestions for securing their home and belongings.

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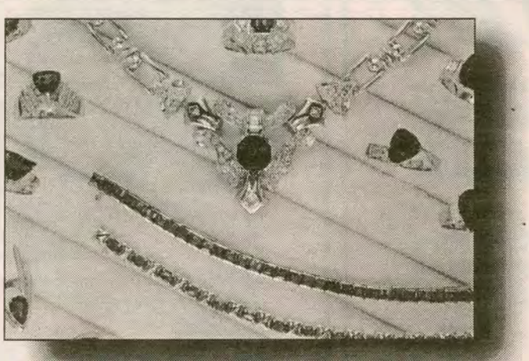

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Marlin Lure Anglers

The winning Blue Marlin weighing 488 pounds was caught by angler Frank Grupber fishing on "My Buddy."

411 pounds.

In the fun fish category angler George Torn on the boat *Recovery Room* caught the largest fish, a 790-pound yellow fin tuna. The heaviest dolphin, 39.5 pounds, was caught by the boat *Unbelievable*, and the heaviest wahoo weighing 43 pounds was caught by *Sea N Double*.

BBC Scholarship Fund Grows

By Isobel Sherman

This year the Bahamas Billfish Championship established a scholarship fund for a Bahamian to go to college to earn a degree in Marine Biology. The BBC feels that this will generate a greater awareness of marine biology in the Bahamas and its importance in the growth of responsible recreational fishing in the Bahamas. The scholarship recipients will be selected by the BBC's Steering Committee and the Bahamas Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The amount of the scholarship will be determined after all five legs of the BBC Tournament have been completed.

Fishing

From Page 1

pounds. A fitting end to a really nice and different fishing tournament.

A full round of on-shore activities was planned by the tournament committee. A dockside cocktail party was held every evening before dinner and each dinner featured a different theme. On Memorial Day, a United States holiday, the theme was in red, white and blue while Tuesday's theme was Island Luau, Wednesday was Pirates of the Caribbean night and Thursday was Mardi Gras night. The Awards Banquet as held on Friday night. In addition, each day there was an hourly raffle with some nine prizes being won by anglers and boat owners.

The Perpetual Trophy on display in the lobby was designed by Kent Ullberg of Corpus Christi, Texas. The beautiful logo on the cover of the programmes and on the T shirts was designed by Steve Goione from Tom's River, New Jersey. Mr. Goione gave an autographed painting of the design to each boat owner in the tournament.

Awards Banquet Was Held

The banquet for the First Annual Boat Harbour Billfish Blast 2000 co-sponsored by HMY Yacht Sales was held on June 2nd at the Pavilion at Boat Harbour Marina.

Winning the tournament was angler Mr. Frank Gruber on his boat *My Buddy*, who, on the last day of fishing, boated a marlin weighing 488 pounds. Coming in second was angler Joe Amato fishing on his boat *19th Hole* who boated a marlin weighing

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Good rental potential.
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The Formation of Coastal Lands

The developing ecology of the Bahamian pine forest

The First of a Series of Articles

By John Hedden

In this series of articles we will eventually have a good look at the pine forest community of Abaco and so try to understand its ecology and its position in the living web of the Abaco environment. However, to understand how the pine forest survives, we must also understand a little about ecology, its terms and words. We must also appreciate that ecology is an imperfect science.

We all know that scientists dream of being able to perform all sorts of experiments in a well equipped laboratory where every imaginable scientific device is available for use in a well controlled, artificial environment, giving exact and perfect results every time!

Ecological experiments are unfortunately not like that. The laboratory is the natural living world outside where all sorts of uncontrollable events take place. The length of time of the experiment may be anywhere between several hundred years to over many thousand, making it difficult for one scientist to begin and end the observations. On top of that the scientists did not even design the experiment; it was already taking place when they arrived in the laboratory!

Ecology is such an imperfect science that ecologists are unable to predict accurately what will be the long term effects of modern (last 100 years) physical activities by mankind in the form of pollution, population manipulation and breeding and topographical changes (roads, concrete, cities, deforestation, among others). One thing we do know is that a global environment means that NO geographical area and NO (political) nation is isolated from the world environment. In other words, what we do to nature here on Abaco will have an effect through winds and the Gulf Stream on Florida and the U.S. East Coast, Iceland, Western Europe and the British Isles.

More towards the local scene, let us demonstrate some basic ecological principles through observations of a living system. We will use our Abaco wetland (Marls, South Side, North Side West Side, according to where you are from).

The Bahamas is made up of many islands the windward side of which are formed of ridges (hills) laid down as sand dunes by winds some 100,000 years ago. On the leeward side the shallow sea and shore is populated by four different types of "mangrove." (Sorry, taxonomists.) These colonisers slowly but surely over the years turn open salt water wilderness into dry land wilderness! A short journey into the mangroves anywhere here will show you what is happening.

It all begins with the long floating seedling, possible a foot long, which arrives (perhaps from Andros or Eleuthera) bobbing up and down on the ocean and becomes stuck in the mud not too far out from the shore line. This seedling soon roots and grows into the familiar RED MANGROVE which really does walk across the shallow water by dropping new roots from its twisting trunk. Soon this tangle traps debris, leaves, garbage and bits of wood, providing a home for crabs, sponges, algae, fish, crawfish, oysters and such. Water movement quickly becomes restricted, more solids are deposited and before long a muddy slop is formed.

However, the red mangrove doesn't like this new environment it has created and so withers away and is replaced by the just as familiar BLACK MANGROVE. These are identifiable by the short breathing shoots they send up from their roots through the mud and into the air, making the mud flats look like a forest of sticks. The roots underneath further bind the mud mass together forming a semi-hard ground which by now has become unsuitable for the black mangrove. The WHITE MANGROVE then moves in and displaces the black mangrove forest. The white mangrove is distinctive with its salt releasing glands at the bottom of the leaf on its stem. Over time the ground becomes hard and solid and inhospitable for the white mangrove which itself is displaced by the hardy salt-tolerant BUTTONWOOD with its attractive leaves and trunks. Over time this solid land experiences rainfall and movement of fresh water under it changes the soil from salt to fresh. The buttonwood can no longer survive and so relinquishes this land to the first of the mixed coppice type vegetation.

So, over a period of years we have moved from an open salt water community to a solid rockland community in five definite steps. This orderly change in communities is called ECOLOGICAL SUCCESSION. It begins with the PIONEERING STAGE of the red mangrove and progresses through the SERAL STAGES to the mature CLIMAX of the coppice. The whole grouping of seral stages is called a SERE. Remember that this succession is equivalent to the life (larval) stages of an insect, finally ending in the mature adult. In fact, the whole interaction between plants, animals and physical environment of the community is regarded as a living organism rather than a hodge podge of different life forms. These factors show us that we have, in fact, a dynamic balance (growing and changing) rather than a static (stopped) balance of nature. This, of course, means that the system is healthy.

Remember the above terms and ideas and think about the following two questions.

1. Is global warming taking place?
2. Would global warming have an effect on the ecological succession of the mangrove community?

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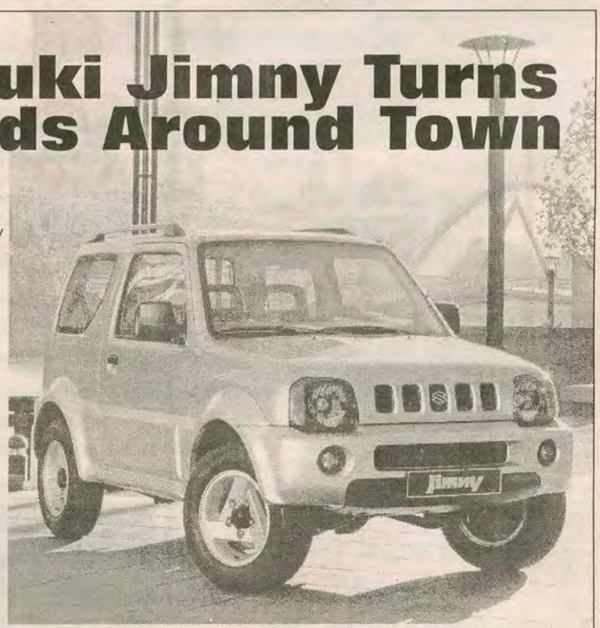

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More Letters to the Editor

Letters

From Page 9

Suspects Activity at Dock

The Editor

There is a very, very interesting but suspicious activity that goes on at the government dock in Marsh Harbour, Abaco, periodically.

Every now and then when you go to or pass the dock early in the morning, you can see a Haitian vessel tied up before Customs officers are scheduled to be at work, even though that vessel was not there before the Customs officers retired the previous evening.

As these vessels appear to be empty in the mornings when seen, who knows what they have brought into our island. Additionally, when they are being loaded, there is not one Bahamian official that can say what was loaded on to these vessels even though they are fully loaded when they leave.

This should be of grave concern to Bahamians and each and everyone of us should try to get answers from Customs officials on Abaco or demand answers from central government in Nassau.

Personally, I would hope that the Chief Customs officer on Abaco can shed some light into this situation.

Jim Hall

This was written sometime ago, but I did not send it to the newspapers.

Now here it is May 24, 2000, and there are two very interesting articles in the *Tribune* of today's date.

Page one, Officers find illegal immigrants hidden inside a wooden ship. All Bahamians should read this story. But the second story on page eleven says, *Pigeon Pea families defy eviction notice*. In this article, second paragraph, it says that a complaint was filed with the police that Haitians were seen building new shacks (homes). Asked by the complainant what was being done about the situation, she was told that the police could do nothing as this did not come under police jurisdiction.

Now these people building these shacks are breaking the laws of our country, and if the police can't do anything about it, PLEASE will someone tell me who can.

It does not make sense to look to Ingraham who is the FNM. The rest are only rubber stamps for what Ingraham wants. To paraphrase Ingraham, "What I want, I get, and I get what I want."

Abaconians and all Bahamians be warned. You are very close to becoming refugees from your own country.

It seems as though we Bahamians are third class citizens in our own country.

Jim Hall

Many Animal Groups Active

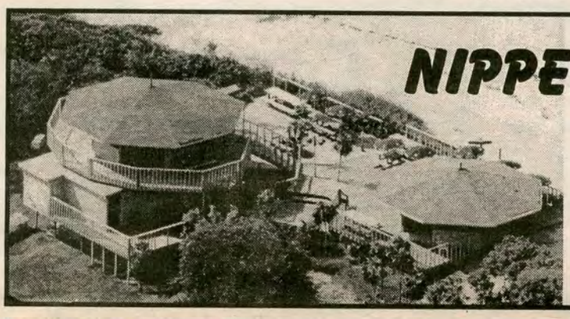
Dear Editor:

Members of AARF (Abaco Animals Require Friends) and volunteers who participated in our last spay and neuter clinic wish to thank you for the great coverage your publication gave to the event.

We would like to point out to your readers and the Abaco community that there are several organizations on Abaco that are involved in animal issues and are striving to bring solutions to the problems the community faces in dealing with these issues. Candy Key in Hope Town has been instrumental in containing the growing population of dogs and cats on Elbow Cay, Mary Ann Albury and the Man-O-War Humane Society has made great strides in their efforts, Mimi Rehor has brought the plight of Abaco's wild horses to thep public's attention and Jerry Roberts spreads the word about the importance of "fixing" pets in Treasure Cay. AARF is by no means the only organization involved. All of the groups whose main concern is the welfare of our animal population struggle on a daily basis all year long to bring the message to our citizens . . . SPAY OR NEUTER YOUR PET! Spaying or neutering has been scientifically proven to be the only way to effectively curb the growth of our animal population.

Again, thank you for your continued support of AARF and all the groups which are making a difference.

Respectfully,
Chris E. Roberts
AARF President



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Announcement

BELLEVUE BUSINESS DEPOT LIMITED is pleased to announce that they have reached an agreement to merge with United Bookshop & Stationers Ltd. Bellevue Business Depot is an office products wholesaler and retailer with successful locations in Freeport, Grand Bahama, and Marsh Harbour, Abaco. The upcoming merger with United Bookshop's locations in the Palmdale Shopping Plaza, the Mall at Marathon and the Oakes Field Plaza, including Business Depot and United Wholesale, marks the entry of Bellevue into the New Providence marketplace.

The managers of United Bookshop will continue to operate the bookstores and Bellevue will take over and expand the stationery, school and office product lines. While the cost of the merger is relatively low - the Net Book Value, plus $550,000 - Bellevue intends to significantly upgrade product lines, distribution and equipment. The merger is expected to be completed by the middle of June 2000.

Bellevue Business Depot will start its remodeling plans at the United Bookshop store in Palmdale in early July 2000. It is anticipated that the redesigning of the store will be completed by the second week of October 2000. The remodeling will be done on a section by section basis to allow for the store to remain open for business.

Robert Osborne
President
June 7th, 2000
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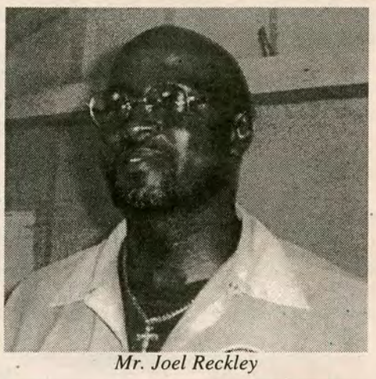
People in the News

Joel Reckley - Community Leader

By Mary H. MacKenzie

"I'd like to help in the community, but I just don't have the time or energy!" How many times have **you** said or thought that? One person **can** make a difference! This is a story about one of those all-too-rare-Bahamians, a giving volunteer who is willing to make a personal sacrifice in order to better his community and help his fellow Bahamians.



Mr. Joel Reckley

Joel Reckley, 39, grew up on Green Turtle Cay, served in the church from an early age as an acolyte and became so proficient in the workings of the church that he now serves as Master of Ceremonies at St. Peters, training all the acolytes. He was also active in the Boys Brigade as a young person.

A 14-year veteran and Supervisor for BEC working out of Marsh Harbour, Joel is supposed to work 40 hours a week but frequently puts in as many as 50 to 60 hours. His wife Bridget runs the American Eagle desk at the Marsh Harbour airport. They have two sons, eight-year-old Joel, Jr., and Javon, age six. Holding down a responsible position, raising those two boys and tending to his church and other duties would be enough for most people. But Joel saw a challenge and need in his community and rose to meet it.

Joel Reckley, Scout Master of Green Turtle Cay is shown

About six years ago the Boy Scouts of the Bahamas based in Freeport came to Green Turtle Cay. At that meeting Joel was singled out as a potential leader for the Scouts. He saw this program as a way to instill leadership qualities in the young men of his town. He has been the Scout Leader on Green Turtle Cay ever since. The program involves Sea Scouts, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts.

Joel started with 13 boys in 1994 and seven of them have completed their basic training. This consists of First Aid training, camping, outdoor activities and leadership training. The boys range in age from 10 to 16. One of the features of Joel's training is "Disciplinary Maneuvers and Drilling." This exercise teaches the boys to listen and the art of corporate discipline. Currently Joel has nine Cub Scouts and four Boy Scouts in his troop. The older boys help with training of the younger ones, perpetuating the program. Joel is firm with the boys in a gentle way, and it is obvious they respect and appreciate his time and attention.

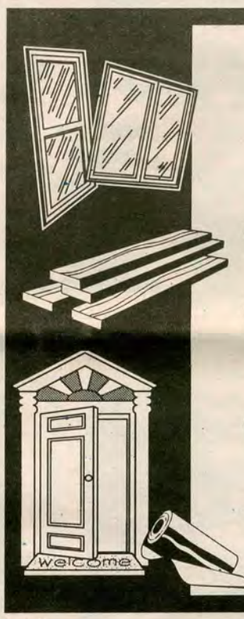
"Why?" Joel was asked, "do you spend so much time with those kids?" He would like them to learn respect and discipline. two qualities he thinks are missing in many of today's young people. "No one else stepped up to the plate," he said. He loves children and hates to see them falling astray as many fathers are absent from their lives. "If just one boy turns his life around," he said, "all the time and effort is worth it." He cites the qualities of patience, listening and understanding the needs of the boys as keys to successful training.

As the boys pass from his troop to young adulthood, Joel hopes that they can use what they have learned to be future leaders in the community. That is just one measure of time well spent for Joel. Strong and caring Bahamians like Joel provide a positive role model for all ages. Perhaps his example will encourage you to find a place to use your skills to better our community. Remember, one person really **can** make a difference. Just ask Joel's Scouts.

Preparedness Office Is Established

The Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham has announced that government is establishing a full time office of disaster preparedness. It will plan all efforts to prepare for disasters and will coordinate response after a problem. One lesson which the Bahamas learned from Hurricane Floyd was that disaster relief cannot be just "on call" but they must now be on alert full time and ready not only for hurricanes but for any other potential disaster. The Royal Bahamas Defence Force personnel will be trained as disaster relief professionals.

The Bahamas has been grateful for help from the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency which helped after Hurricane Andrew in 1992 and again after Floyd last year. They are offering a preparedness programme which could improve preparedness especially in more remote communities in the Family Islands. The government is also setting up a Disaster Contingency Fund which will help keep disaster expense from adversely affecting the budget.



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"Handcrafted cottages painted in Junkanoo colours dot the bluff overlooking the turquoise water of deserted Guana Beach. This upscale, pocket sized haven is the newest resort on Guana Cay."—Fodors 2000 (Selected as a Fodor's Choice for hideaways in the Out Islands and Fodor's Choice for the Best Beaches in The Bahamas - Great Guana Cay)
"Surely set to become one of the best hideaways in the Abacos"—Travel & Leisure Magazine, October 1999
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Reef and Beef SATURDAY
Let Chef Debbie, Chef Cool and Our Fine Staff Treat You!
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
(Closed Tuesdays)

Dinner Reservations by 5:00pm
366-0137 or VHF. ch. 16
Coming Soon
Blue Water Grille on Fisher's Bay
Sea of Abaco

BAHAMAS REAL ESTATE TODAY

Have the Rules Changed?

By Coldwell Banker Lightbourn Realty

Will home buyers have different expectations this year? Are there any new rules you should know when selling your home in the year 2000?

For as long as a family's desire for a comfortable home exists, the basic rules for selling your home remain timeless. Offer a home that is priced fairly and in especially good condition and buyers will respond with their interest and a commitment to purchase. That means sellers should offer a home with good old traditional value.

When represented by a leading real estate professional, homeowners can depend on receiving accurate, detailed information about recently sold properties and current home prices. From that data, an informed decision can be made about the asking price. To attract serious buyers, the home must be priced fairly from the beginning. Otherwise, the home will see little or no action. Eventually buyers will think that there must be something wrong with the home or will give lower than market value offers assuming that after such a long time the owner must be desperate to sell.

On the other hand, you might have been trying to sell a well priced expensive home such as the ones in Lyford Cay for a while and wonder why you have not been successful. In many cases better national and international exposure and proper marketing might be the answer. Nevertheless, we must take into consideration that less than five percent of the buyers are able to afford million dollar homes, thus making the high end priced market more difficult to sell.

Suggestions for improving the curb appeal of a home can also be obtained from the seller's representative. A "walk-through" by the agent playing the part of a buyer can provide valuable feedback about needed improvements. A home enhancement guide such as *Dress Your House for Success* has proven to be very helpful to sellers providing inexpensive and easy to follow ideas that are sure to impress buyers.

Have the rules changed for selling your home this year? Not at all!

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Fresh water shower available
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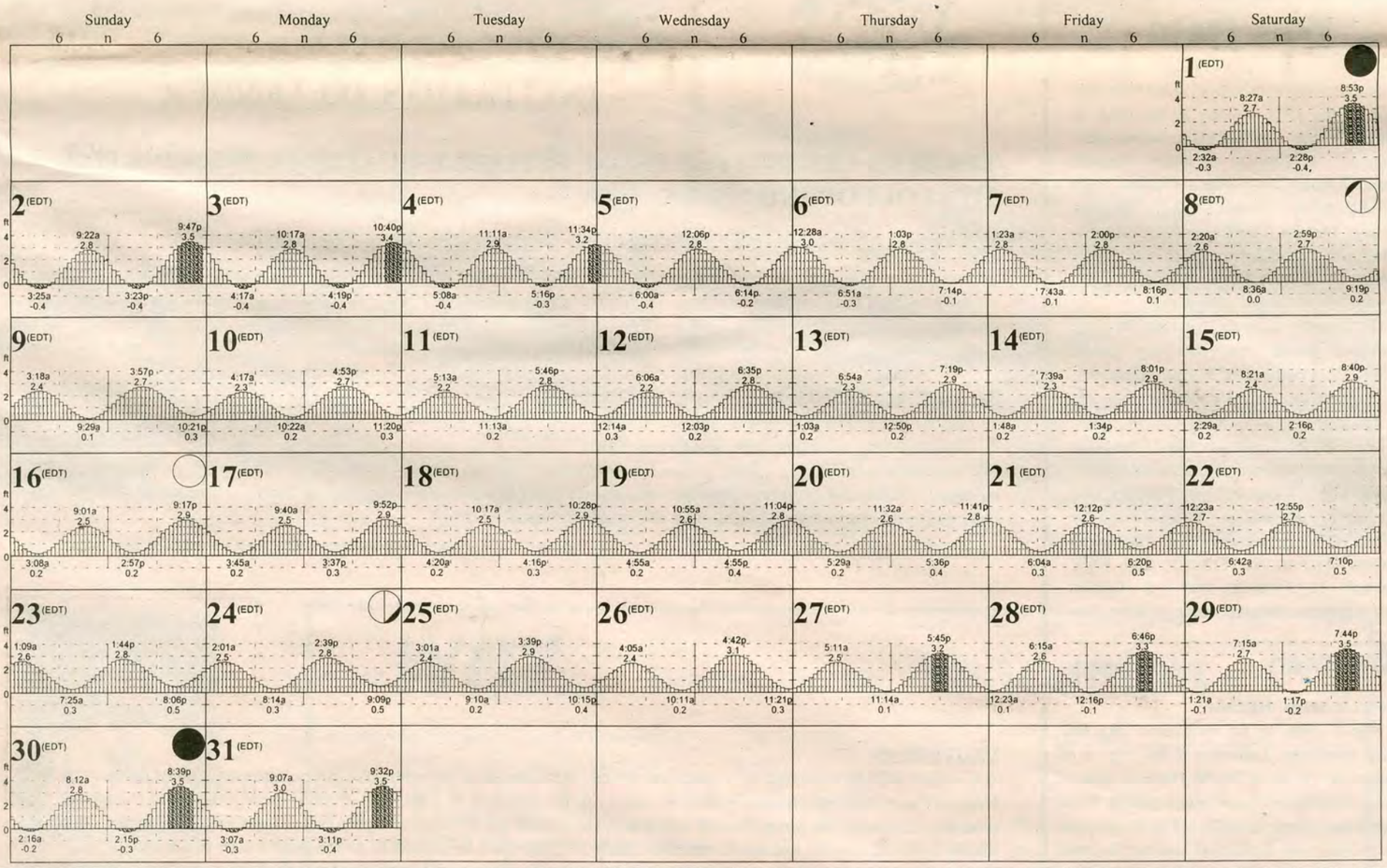
Ask about our special over night rate!

Weather and other conditions will affect the tide. The predictions shown on this chart are based on the normal conditions that existed when NOAA/NOS and other agencies gathered the data. Times shown will be within a few minutes for the entire eastern Abaco area. Pelican Harbour is just inside North Bar Channel.

Tides - North Bar Cnannel

July 2000

This graph is generated from NOAA/NOS data via software from Nautical Software, Tel: 503-579-1414.



This monthly Tide Chart Compliments of Shell, Bahamas, Limited

- Marsh Harbour Service Station
- Cherokee Auto & Boat Haven
- Burrows S/S Treasure Cay
- Dundas Town Shell Shop
- Marsh Harbour Airport
- Marsh Harbour Marina
- Harbour View Marina
- Walker's Cay Marina
- Lighthouse Marina
- Cooper's Town
- Island Marine
- Andy's Auto
- Sandy Point
- Fox Town

You can be sure of Shell

Sports News

Students Compete In Nassau Track and Field Meet

By Leroy Thompson
Teacher and PE Coach

On May 10 a total of 64 students along with eight teachers and four parents travelled to Nassau to represent Abaco at the annual Primary National Track and Field meet. The meet was spread over a three-day period with heats being run in the first two days and the finals on Friday.

This year the number of schools participating doubled compared to previous years. There were a total of 38 schools, both public and private. Abaco as always was well represented and our students lived up to expectations. However, it was observed that schools with students involved in track clubs performed at a very high level. Therefore, the primary sporting body of Abaco has decided to begin three track clubs for primary students on Abaco. They are as follows: North, Central and South. This will allow students to practice year round and stay in shape. We also intend to take a group to Florida during the new school year to take part in track and field events there.

Finally, I, Mr. Leroy Thompson, and the Central Abaco School family wish to thank the business community of Abaco for coming to the rescue of students that were unable to afford the trip. The Marsh Harbour district was extremely helpful in affording our students a chance to represent Abaco. Thanks to you.

Jamie Leduc of St. Francis de Sales School presented Daniel Whiltfang of Trauma One with the registration fees of May's inter-school bicycle race. The donation totalled $230. Huel Moss of Road Runners Bicycle store and sponsor of the event looks on.

Abaco students along with teahers and parents are shown leaving to attend the Annual Primary National Track and Field meet in Nassau. The students did well during the three day competition. Mr, Leroy Thompson was the organizer of this event.

In the Junior 400m 1st was Darron Smith, Abaco Central; 2nd Jabah Davis, ACH; and 3rd Matthew Roberts, St. Francis. In the 1600m 1st place went to Darron Smith, ACH; 2nd place went to Jabah Davis, ACH; and 3rd went to Leandrell Cement of St. Francis.

In the 400m Adolescent first went to Patrick Albury, ACH; 2nd Leandro Cement, St. Francis; and 3rd Terence Scavella, St Francis. In the 1600m Adolescent first was awarded to Patrick Albury, ACH; 2nd Jarrad Simms, ACH; and 3rd Leandro Cement, St. Francis.

In the 400m senior 1st went to Timothy Jones, St. Francis; 2nd Basil Pierre, ACH; and 3rd Gertrude Decius, St. Francis. In the 1600m senior 1st went to Basil Pierre, ACH; 2nd Timothy Jones, St. Francis; and 3rd Gertrude Decius, St. Francis

In the 800m faculty race 1st went to Clint Atkin, St. Francis, 2nd Jamie Leduc, St. Francis; and 3rd Kevin Sterling, St Francis.

The event was a fund raiser for Trauma One and the event raised over $200. There are plans for more races next school year with hopefully more schools participating.

Bike Race Was Held

By Isobel Sherman

The second inter-school bike race was held on the 19th of May at the track in Murphy Town. The following schools participated: St. Francis de Sales, Central Abaco Primary and Abaco Central High School. Abaco Road Runners Bicycle Shop in Dundas Town sponsored the trophies and Gatorade sponsored the thirst quenching drinks. Fifty students participated in the different age groups.

The results were as follows: Peewee (400m) division First place was David Vilmer, St. Francis; 2nd Phillip Fernander, St. Francis; and 3rd Alexander Wilmore, St. Francis.

In the 400m Primary division first place was Sydney Archer, St. Francis, 2nd Agatha Curry, Central Abaco Primary; and 3rd Kyle Stevens, St. Francis. In the 1600m Primary Division 1st place was Sydney Archer, St. Francis; 2nd Kyle Stevens, St. Francis; and 3rd Agatha Curry, Central Abaco Primary.

Sherman

From Page 8

tioned in Marsh Harbour.

Police need to be motivated like any other employee. I am sure if the interior of one of the banks in Marsh Harbour looked liked the interior of our police station, there would be a large changeover of employees as well as many customers leaving the bank because going inside the bank to do business was too depressing.

Let us help our police force not just by complaining as I always hear but by actively trying to get them a decent place to work. After all, no matter what you may think of the Royal Bahamas Police Force, the men and women stationed in Marsh Harbour put their lives on the line to do their job just as our volunteer firemen do.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY

District Council

CENTRAL ABACO DISTRICT
P. O. Box AB-20765, Marsh Harbour, Abaco
May 25th, 2000

INVITATION TO TENDER

TENDERS ARE INVITED FROM SUITABLY QUALIFIED PERSONS FOR THE FOLLOWING WORK:

1. Central Abaco Dump Site Management (Including Security Personnel)

The successful contractor shall be responsible for ensuring that the referenced facility is accessible and monitored during all hours of operation and that persons utilizing the facility place refuse in the designated areas at all times. Equipment and personnel to organize disposal and methods of disintegration and movement of waste products are the responsibility of the contractor. A minimum two (2) persons are to be hired to monitor the facility.

2. Garbage Collection - District Schools (2)

1. Central Abaco Primary School, Dundas Town
2. Abaco Central Secondary School, Murphy Town

The successful candidate shall be granted a sub-contract for the subject work. He/she/they shall be responsible for garbage collection at the above premises on a weekly basis to achieve the standard of cleanliness required. Receptacles and equipment shall be the responsibility of the sub-contractor.

PROVISIONS:

A Contract shall be extended for a specified period. Remuneration for contracts shall be made on a monthly basis by the Council Payment of remuneration shall be subject to the approval of a member of the Council designated to monitor the contract. Terms of the contract shall be clearly enunciated on the contract form as a "Good Faith" agreement entered into by both the Council and the Contractor. Such contract shall be subject to review with notice to the contractor. This contract may be withdrawn by the Council for breach of any or all terms on the part of the contractor with immediate notice.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Sealed Tenders should be returned to the District Council Office at #206 Dove Plaza by 3 p.m. June 30th, 2000 addressed to the Chief Councillor, Mr. Silbert Mills. All Tenders must be returned with sufficient detail. Tenders should clearly state proposed financial terms. The Council will unseal the tenders during its business meeting of July 2000.

THE COUNCIL RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL TENDERS.

Mr. Carl Archer, Mr. Faron Newbold, Mr. Cubell Davis Jr., Mrs. Yvonne Key, Mr. William Johnston, Mr. David Williams, Miss Kandy Pinder

Visitors' Guide

Scooters • Cars
Boats • Marinas
Taxis • Restaurants

BAHAMAS AREA CODE 242
APPLICABLE TO ALL PHONE NUMBERS

Restaurant Guide

Prices * Low, ** Moderate, *** High
(Based on the range of dinner entrees)
~Provides transportation from town
+Picnic tables & restroom only

Marsh Harbour			
Anglers		***	367-2158
Mangoes		***	367-3336
C&G Restaurant		**	367-3227
Conch Inn Bistro		***	367-4444
Cozy's Restaurant			367-5090
Flippers		**	367-4657
Golden Grouper		*	367-2301
Kentucky Fried Chicken			367-2615
Snack Shack	+	*	367-4005
Mavis Country Kitchen		*	367-2002
Sapodillys		***	367-2498
Sharkees	+	**	367-3535
Wally's		***	367-2074
Dundas Town			
Ambassador Inn		*	367-2022
Corner Restaurant		*	367-4346
Surfside			367-2762
Hope Town			
Abaco Inn	~	***	366-0133
Boat House	~	***	366-0065
Cap'n Jacks		*	366-0247
Club Soleil		***	366-0003
Harbour's Edge		**	366-0087
H T Harbour Lodge		**	366-0095
Munchies	+	*	366-0423
Rudy's Place	~	***	366-0062
Man-O-War			
Ena's Place		**	365-6187
Pavilion		*	365-6185
Hibiscus			365-6257
Guana Cay			
Coco Paradise			365-5197
Guana Seaside		***	365-5106
Nippers		***	365-5143
Mermaid Cafe			365-5137
Treasure Cay			
Florence's Cafe		*	
Harbour Cafe		*	365-8635
Hudson's Delight		*	365-8648
Island Boil & Sports Bar		**	365-4082
Spinnaker Restaurant		***	365-8469
Touch of Class		***	365-8195
Traveller's Rest			365-8654
Green Turtle Cay			
Bluff House		***	365-4200
Green Turtle Club		***	365-4271
Island Restaurant		**	365-4082
Laura's Kitchen		**	365-4287
McIntosh's Restaurant		*	365-4625
New Plymouth Inn		***	365-4161
Rooster's Rest		**	365-4066
Sandy Point			
Big J's		*	366-4020
Oeishas			366-4139
Pete & Gays		***	366-4119
Seaside Inn Rest.		***	366-4120
Rickmon Bonefish Lodge			366-4477
Crossing Rocks			
Leanies Restaurant		*	366-3219
Travis Midway Rest.		*	366-3217
Casuarina Point			
Different of Abaco		**	366-2150
Cooper's Town			
M & M Restaurant		*	365-0142
Lubber's Quarters			
Yahoes			366-3110
Cracker P's			VHF Ch. 16
Little Harbour			
Pete's Pub			VHF Ch. 16
Green Turtle Ferry Dock			
Harbour Café			365-8635

Medical Services

Marsh Harbour
Abaco Medical Clinic 367-4240
Abaco Family Medicine 367-2295
Government Clinic 367-2510

Treasure Cay
Corbett Clinic 365-8288

Sandy Point
Government Clinic 366-4010

Green Turtle Cay
Government Clinic 365-4028

Cooper's Town
Government Clinic 365-0019

Hope Town
Government Clinic 366-0108

Emergency Services

Police (Marsh Harbour) 367-2560
Marsh Harb. Volunteer Fire & Rescue 367-2000
Hope Town Volunteer Fire and Rescue 366-0023
Trauma One Ambulance Service 367-2911
Dundas Town Fire Dept. .....367-2935 or 367-4935

Taxi Cab Fares

For Central Abaco

Airport to: .....Charge for extra Passengers

Ferry Dock (to or from airport)	$12.00 Add $3.00 ea.
Abaco Beach Hotel	$10.00 (over 2 add $3 ea)
Airport to Conch Inn	$10.00 (over 2 add $3 ea)
Harbour View	$10.00 (over 2 add $3 ea)
Golden Harvest	$10.00 (over 2 add $3 ea)
BYS	$12.00 (over 2 add $3 ea)
Dove Plaza	$10.00 (over 2 add $2 ea)
Marsh Harbour School	$10.00 (over 2 add $3 ea)
Stop light	$10.00 (over 2 add $3 ea)
Western Auto	$ 6.00 (over 2 add $2 ea)
Dundas Town	$10.00 (over 2 add $3 ea)
Government Dock	$10.00 (over 2 add $3 ea)
Ambassador Inn	$10.00 (over 2 add $3 ea)
Murphy Town	$14.00 (over 2 add $4 ea)
Pelican Shores	$14.00 (over 2 add $4 ea)
Eastern Shores	$15.00 (over 2 add $4 ea)
Spring City	$15.00 (over 2 add $5 ea)
Gov. Clinic	$ 6.00 (over 2 add $3 ea)

Ferry dock to:

Great Abaco Beach	$ 2.00 (over 2 add $2 ea)
Abaco Towns	$ 2.00 (over 2 add $2 ea)
Conch Inn	$ 2.00 (over 2 add $2 ea)
Wally's	$ 2.00 (over 2 add $2 ea)
BYS	$ 2.00 (over 2 add $2 ea)
Jib Room	$ 5.00 (over 2 add $2 ea)
Stop Light	$ 6.00 (over 2 add $3 ea)
Dove Plaza	$ 6.00 (over 2 add $3 ea)
Government Dock	$ 7.00 (over 2 add $3 ea)
Government Clinic	$ 9.00 (over 2 add $3 ea)
Western Auto	$ 9.00 (over 2 add $3 ea)
Ferry Dock	$ 9.00 (over 2 add $3 ea)
National Insurance	$ 9.00 (over 2 add $3 ea)

Marsh Harbour Airport to:

Treasure Cay B	$55.00 (over 2 add $ 5 ea)
Airport Treas. Cay B	$65.00 (over 2 add $ 5 ea)
Little Harbour	$80.00 (over 2 add $10 ea)
Cherokee	$80.00 (over 2 add $10 ea)
Snake Cay	$35.00 (over 2 add $10 ea)
Big Mangrove	$50.00 (over 2 add $10 ea)
Casuarina Point	$60.00 (over 2 add $10 ea)
Bahama Palm Shores	$70.00 (over 2 add $10 ea)
Crossing Rocks	$100.00 (over 2 add $10 ea)
Sandy Point	$135.00 (over 2 add $10 ea)

Waiting time $20 per hour, $10 per half hour
No children under three years to be paid.
Pets not in cages will be charged as passengers
Luggage over four pieces, add $.50 each additional
Surf Boards $3.00 each

Ferry Schedules

Albury's Ferry Service

Fares
One Way Fare Adult $ 8.00 Children $4.00
Round Trip Adult $12.00 Children $6.00
Charters are available at any time
Phone 367-3147 or 365-6010 VHF Ch. 16

Marsh Harb. to Hope Town - Daily 20 minute trip
9 am 10:30 am 12:15 pm 2 pm 4 pm 5:30 pm
Also 7:15 am except Sundays and holidays
Hope T. to Marsh Harb. - Daily - 20 minute trip
8 am 9:45 am 11:30 am 1:30 pm 3 pm 4 pm
Also 5 pm except Sundays and holidays

Marsh Harb. to Man-O-War Daily - 20 minute trip
10:30 am 4 pm 5:30 pm
Also 12:15 pm 2:30 pm except Sundays
Man-O-War to Marsh H. Daily - 20 minute trip
8 am 1:30 pm
Also 11:30 am 3:15 pm except Sundays
Hope Town and Man-O-War ferries leave from the Ferry Dock at Crossing Beach

Marsh H. to Scot. Cay & Guana 30 minute trip
10:15 am 1:15 pm 3:30 pm 5:30 pm
Also 6:45 am except Sat. Sun. and holidays
Guana & Scotland Cay to Marsh H. 30 minute trip
8 am 11:30 am 2:30 pm 4:45 pm
Guana Cay and Scotland Cay ferries leave from Conch Inn and Union Jack Dock

Green Turtle Ferry

Fares
One Way $7 (Children $3) Round Trip $11
(Depending on destination of passengers)
Charters are available at any time
Phone 365-4166, 4128, 4151 VHF Channel 16

Green Turtle Cay to Treas. Cay Airport
Daily 8 9 11 12:15 1:30 3:00 4:30
Treas. Cay Airport to Green Turtle Cay
Daily 8:30 10:30 11:30 1:30 2:30 3:30 4:30 5:00

Dive Shops

Marsh Harbour
Dive Abaco 367-2787
Abaco Beach Dive Shop 367-4646
Hope Town
Dave's Dive Shop 366-0029
Froggies 366-0024
Man-O-War
Man-O-War Dive Shop 365-6013
Treasure Cay
JIC Divers Down 365-8465
Treasure Cay Adventures 365-8111
Green Turtle Cay
Brendal's Dive Shop 365-4411
Green Turtle Cay Divers 365-4271

Boats, Cars, Golf Carts, Bicycles, Scooters

Marsh Harbour

Cars and Scooters
H & L Car Rentals 367-4887
A & P Car Rentals 367-2655
Reliable Car Rentals 367-4234
Rent-A-Ride Bicycle & Scooter Rentals 367-3015
Rental Wheels Scooters, Bike, Car Rentals 367-4643
Wilmac Car Rentals .....367-4970 or 367-4313
Boats
Sea Horse Boat Rentals 367-2513
Rich's Rentals 367-2742
Rainbow Rentals 367-4602
Blue Wave Boat Rentals 367-3910
Power Cats Boat Rentals 367-4620
Laysue Boat Rentals 367-4414
Pier 1 (one) 359-6982

Green Turtle Cay

Cay Cart Rental 365-4406
C & D Cart Rental 365-4084
D & P Cart Rental 365-4656
Bay Street Golf Cart Rentals 365-4070
Brendal's Bicycle Rentals 365-4411
Donnie's Boat Rentals 365-4119
Reef Rentals 365-4145

Guana Cay

Donna Sands Cart Rentals 365-5195
Guana Cay Cart Rentals 365-5016
Water Toy Boat Rental 365-5188

Man-O-War

Island Treasures Cart Rentals 365-6072
Conch Pearl Boat Rentals 365-6059

Hope Town

Bike Shop Bicycle Rentals 366-0292
Island Cart Rentals 366-0448
Hope Town Cart Rentals 366-0064
Dave's Dive Shop Boat Rentals 366-0029
Island Marine Boat Rentals 366-0282
Sea Spray Resort Boat Rentals 366-0065

Treasure Cay

JIC Boat and Cart Rentals 365-8465
Claridge's and Chris' Cart Rentals 365-8248
Rich's Boat Rentals 365-8582
Alison Car Rentals 365-8193
Cornish Car Rentals 365-8623
Triple J Car Rentals .....VHF Ch 06
Treasure Adventures 365-8111

Abaco Marinas

	Phone	Fuel	
Walker's Cay			
Walker's Cay Marina	353-1252	•	75 slips
Green Turtle Cay			
Bluff House	365-4200	•	15 slips
Green Turtle Club	365-4271	•	32 slips
Black Sound Marina	365-4531		15 slips
Other Shore Club	365-4195	•	12 slips
Abaco Yacht Service	365-4033		10 slips
Treasure Cay			
Treasure Cay Marina	365-8250	•	150 slips
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Man-O-War Marina	365-6008	•	26 slips
Marsh Harbour			
Boat Harbour Marina	367-2736	•	183 slips
Conch Inn	367-4000	•	75 slips
Harbour View Marina	367-2182	•	36 slips
Marsh Harbour Marina	367 2700	•	62 slips
Mangoes	367-2366		29 slips
Triple J. Marine	367-2163	•	24 slips
Abaco Yacht Haven	367-3079		7 slips
Hope Town			
Hope Town Marina	366-0003		16 slips
Hope Town Hideaways	366-0224		
Lighthouse Marina	366-0154	•	6 slips
Sea Spray	366-0065	•	24 slips
Spanish Cay			
Spanish Cay Marina	365-0083	•	75 slips
Guana Cay			
Guana Beach Resort	365-5133	•	22 slips
Orchid Bay	365-5175	•	32 slips

• Fuel facilities Bahamas Area Code 242
Boats coming from the United States can clear at Walker's Cay, Green Turtle Cay, Treasure Cay or Marsh Harbour.

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Continental Connection from Miami, Ft. Laud and W Palm Bch	367-3415
Major Air Service from Freeport	367-4826
Taino Air Services from Freeport	365-8245
Twin Air from Fort Lauderdale	365-8677
USAir from Ft. Laud and Palm Bch	367-2231
Vintage Props & Jets - New Smyrna Bch	367-4852
Abaco Air Charters	*367-2266
Cherokee Air Charters	*367-2089

* Local companies offering charters to and from South Florida and within the Bahamas

Church News

Church

From Page 1

Mr. Ed Kilbourne played his guitar and sang nightly. He taught the congregation new songs and told entertaining stories bringing out spiritual lessons effectively.

Conference. On Saturday night the special speaker was Rev. Dr. Grace Imathui from a remote village in Kenya who was a most effective speaker in persuading the congregation to commit to the work of the Lord.

It was appropriate that the first Spiritual Growth Conference be held on Abaco. Methodism began on Abaco at Green Turtle Cay with a freed slave, Joseph Paul, who later moved to Nassau to develop a Methodist presence there. Several Methodist churches resulted in these early efforts and beginning in 1815 a resident minister was sent to Abaco. Five of a total of 33 Methodist churches are on Abaco. Methodism has played an important role in several Abaco communities.

Trade Unions Hold Church Service

The various trade unions on Abaco held a Labour Day service on May 31 at Friendship Tabernacle Church in Dundas Town. Several unions were represented at the ecumenical service. Special music was provided by the church prayer and praise group and a variety of speakers brought messages. Sen. Michael Bethel discussed the need to develop our human resources by better education and by returning to old ethics and moral code. The country needs to require better productivity, particularly now in the day of high technology. He urged the congregation not to accept the level of education given us today but insist on better quality. He predicted that the countries of the future which succeed will be where the people keep improving themselves.

Mr. Jordan Ritchie, Administrator in Training, Mr. Silbert Mills, Chief Councillor for Central Abaco District and Mr. Bernard Evans, Executive Vice President of the BCPOU all conveyed their messages.

The sermon was brought by Pastor Kenneth Knowles, who stressed several principles. He wanted them to remember that God is the provider of all things and the only One who can satisfy. Pastor Knowles admonished all union members and leaders always to stand up for what is right and for them to be merciful.

The young Sunday School Children of St. Andrews Methodist Church in Dundas Town entertained the delegates at the recent annual conference of the Bahamas Conference of the Methodist Church.

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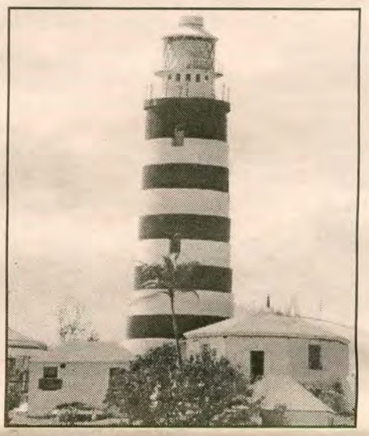

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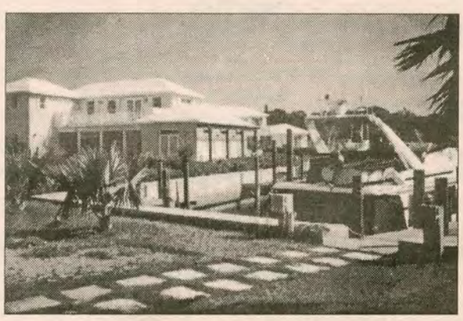

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New Budget Will Be Balanced

Budget

From Page 2

programs will mean for The Bahamas.

The Bahamas continues to participate in discussions to set up the Free Trade Area of the Americas. For smaller countries accepting this when the program is fully developed, there would be major changes. At this time the disadvantages are becoming more evident. Concerns include the additional costs to the government as well as a probable loss of employment in small industries. It is not at all evident that these would be offset by any major advantages. However, The Bahamas has met challenges before and government is confident it can turn them into advantages.

Economy Viewed as Healthy

The Bahamas has been rated by international organizations and these are all very favorable. Since 1995 the economy has recovered well. This is based on significant foreign investment in tourist resorts and a large transshipment facility as well as steady growth in residential construction and financial services. Despite Hurricane Floyd adversely impacting the 1999 figures, the domestic growth was up. The domestic growth in 1997-1998 was three percent annually and by 1999 was about six percent. There has been a decline in unemployment and inflation and a strengthening of the international reserves. Unemployment is at seven percent and is soon expected to be at full employment which is at five percent or below. There have been significant increases in per capita income and employment. The Bahamas continues to enjoy the highest rating of any independent country in this Hemisphere other than the United States and Canada. International organizations are satisfied that the Bahamian debt is very manageable and no strain on the economy.

Tourism is showing growth in many areas including Abaco. Tourism has had seven years of massive construction and renovation and this trend is continuing. The number of visitors is up as well as the total visitor expenditures.

The development of our neighboring island of Grand Bahama was cited for the diversification of its economy. It is outstanding as it is developing in several areas including new and renovated resort facilities, the transshipment terminal, the ship care facility and other major works. When fully operational the ship care facility will employ more persons than the number currently employed in the financial services sector. Their economy will not be dependent on a specific industry so changes in one particular industry will not affect that island so much as other developments on the island will operate normally.

The Dundas Town Church of God of Prophecy held their 35th Annual District Convention on May 26 through 28. The band opened the Sunday afternoon service.

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Humblestone

From Page 8

utes elsewhere," one of them said, appalled at the "service."

The restaurant had five customers and there was another waitress on duty. Every few moments "our" waitress would pass us with a take-away box, never once acknowledging our presence. It was as if we were invisible.

Unable to restrain myself any longer, I finally jumped up and headed for the kitchen where there was about as much life as out front. Two cooks, looking shell-shocked or punch-drunk, looked up momentarily from what they were doing and then lazily continued buttering bread in a robotic manner. They looked like celluloid characters in a broken – reeled movie. I could get no sense from either of them and returned to my seat, where my two companions were sitting patiently – and hungrily.

"Do you need any help in there?" one of them joked towards the hatch. No response, not even a titter.

I was frustrated, disappointed, and I felt cheated. When the food finally arrived, it was not up to par. Two of us were served and the third one waited for five minutes, insisting that we start. We waited, so by the time her food came ours was stone cold. All this, the waiting, the shuffling, the frowns, the unpleasant atmosphere and the unsatisfactory lunch for $27. To add insult to injury the waitress read out the check instead of presenting it to me. Crass!

"I CAN read," I told her in no uncertain terms," and I would like to check the bill."

She did one of her "slings" as if she was dealing a playing card and then slunk off, leaving me totally bewildered. What was she doing there? Why did she not appreciate the fact that she had a job, and why had she bothered getting out of bed that morning? What business had she to tarnish the image of her workplace?

This scenario is more prevalent in Marsh Harbour proper than the cays or in the small settlements. I will not name restaurants where I have received bad service but I will comment on one or two where the service is excellent - Wally's in Marsh Harbour is one and the Tangelo in Wood Cay is another.

Eating is a pleasurable experience and dining out is icing on the cake. A restaurant employee has no right to make that experience an unfortunate one. It should be unforgettable, not unforgettably bad. The biggest joke is when the sour waiter or waitress then moans when no tip is forthcoming. A tip is not routine. It is earned, hence the acronym TIP – To Ensure Promptness.

I am surprised to discover how many of my friends have waited tables. I certainly have. It is hard work and one has to be focused and alert. Indifference, discourtesy and blatant rudeness are simply not on the menu.

The expression is: "Service with a SMILE," not "Service with a SCOWL."

People to People Will Initiate Here - Volunteers Wanted

The Ministry of Tourism is taking steps to initiate their popular People-to-People program on Abaco. This is a one-on-one cultural exchange program which is celebrating its 25th anniversary in Nassau.

The concept matches resident volunteers with tourists who have earlier asked for contact with local persons. The encounter may be matched by age, similar interests, hobbies, religious affiliation or occupational or professional interests. Giving or accepting a meal is not required although not prohibited. Lodgings or payment is not allowed.

Encounters are scheduled at the volunteer's convenience and may be after work. The encounter might relate to birdwatching, a request to attend church or for children to visit a school. Volunteers and guests may be treated to an occasional afternoon tea party by the Ministry. Knowledgeable persons who enjoy contact with others may call the tourism office at 367-3067 for more information.

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SOLD
"Point of View" 3 bed / 2 ½ bath split level open concept home with cathedral ceilings and skylights. Master bedroom suite accesses large ocean-side deck with beach, beach and more beach $1,476,000

LEEWARD BEACH
"Crosswind" located on a natural lake with direct greenway access to beach, split level home 3 bed / 2 bath w/adjacent 1 bed / 1 bath efficiency apartment, very large lot $333,000

WINDWARD BEACH
"Halcyon House" ocean front property, main house, Living / dining / kitchen, Master bed / bath with breezeway dividing guest bed / bath, all upper level. Downstairs double garage, utility / workshop and separate optional bed / den / office and bath. Price includes adjacent lot. $462,500

GALLEON BAY CANAL
"Island Times" canal front modern home 3 bed / 2½ bath, wrap around porch, double garage $486,000
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A cement truck from Freeport is under contract in Little Abaco to pour house slabs for homes being reconstructed under the Hurricane Reconstruction exercise. In mid-May it obeyed the Law of Gravity rather than the Law of the Bahamas. Skid marks visible in the road between the truck and the police officer suggest it attempted an evasive maneuver. We are unaware of any injuries other than a wounded pride and a punctured ego.

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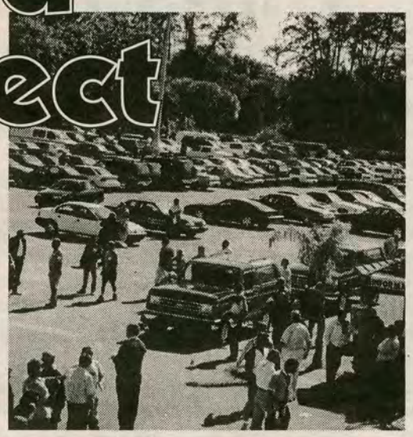

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Treasure Cay. Breathtaking 1.5 acres on "Top Ten" beach. 3 bed, 3 bath with views. Large decks, mature landscaping. Newly upgraded.. #3483. $645,000

Leisure Lee. Very well planned 3 bed, 2 bath home with wrap around veranda and sea views. Marble master bath. Double lot. #4513. $242,000

Turtle Rocks. 2 beautiful building lots, 1 acre each. Level sites, good road access. Sandy beach. Easy access to town. #4542, #4110. $175,000 each

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Green Turtle. Bluff Harbour. Two superb waterfront home sites. A rare opportunity. #4293, 4293. $240,000 each

Bahama Palm Shores. Bahama Palm Shores. Great buy. 1 block to Eight Mile Beach. Large master suite. Rental cottage. #4159. $215,000

Bahama Palm Shores. 1/2 acre home site just across from beach. Exceptional price, super views. #4292. $55,000

Elbow Cay. White Sound, Atlantic Ocean frontage home site. 28,930 s. f. total area. Coral and sandy shoreline. #4011. $285,000

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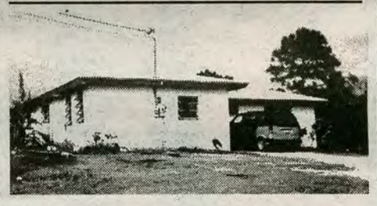

Murphy Town, ***House for Sale*** Lot #67 on Front Street. Contact Scotia Bank, Marsh Harbour - 367-2141 or Freeport - 352-6774.

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Every Child Counts

Hints for Parents of LD Children

By Dr. Sharon Kossack,
Florida International University

It is hard enough to be a parent, but it becomes much more difficult if your child has a learning disability. It seems that they have difficulty with the most unlikely things, become agitated with the slightest change in routine and refuse to do things that seem very easy for us. Here are some tips that might help you cope if you are working with a learning disabled child.

Structured environment. The child with a learning disability is often upset when things change or if anything is out of the ordinary. When the family establishes a routine way or time for doing things, the learning disabled child will feel more secure. When routines are changed or the child is moving into an event that has never been experienced before, it is wise to prepare for the shift. For example, if your child is going to an awards banquet, go over the program the evening before and explain what will happen. "Tomorrow night we will come here for you to get a Scouts award. We will park out there in the lot, come in through these doors. They will probably ask us to register . . . they may have a table here. Then we will go and sit at a big table inside this big room We may have other people we don't know at our table . . . " When you change a family routine, explain what is to happen and why. It is also helpful to explain what you expect of your child, too, and perhaps even act it out (e.g., how to talk with the strangers at the table).

If it is possible, arrange **a place where your learning disabled child can work alone** or be by himself when he feels anxious. Have shelves or boxes where his belongings can be stored. Label where everything is located so he can find needed items.

When your child is asked to complete a task like wash the dishes, **clear away unnecessary things.** For example, when your child is doing homework, provide only the necessary implements (paper, pencil and book). This will minimize the distraction.

The learning disabled child can become anxious if he has a lot of open periods of time. But he will need a release from the failure and frustration he has felt during the day, so try to build in **time for him to play to relieve built-up tension.**

Task Completion. When you ask your learning disabled child to do homework assignments or chores, break the tasks into short segments so that he can complete a segment without losing interest. Link completion of a segment with something he wants to do, e.g., "Do these problems now. Then you can watch television until the timer sounds. After that, you will finish these four problems."

If your child has trouble remembering things over long periods of time or mixes things up, **keep homework segments short** (20-30 minutes) and close together so he won't forget what he's learned.

Learning disabled children have a hard time with multiple-step directions. **Give only one direction at a time**. When your child finishes the first direction, then give the next one. If you demonstrate a new learning task while explaining how to do it using simple, direct sentences, then have him tell you what you have said (while he demonstrates it). You have exposed your child to several learning channels (hearing, seeing, doing). It is much more likely he will be able to do what you ask.

If you **praise your child after he completes each step**, he can correct mistakes before he has made too many. When children make too many mistakes, they become confused and discouraged.

Once your child understands how to do a home task, give him a **checklist of how to do each household chore**. For the non-reader, use pictures to show each step of the task. Set aside specific time so he will know that "now" is the time to perform this task.

These kinds of adjustments may make living with a learning disabled child much more pleasant - for both you and your child. If you would like more information about the project or would like to help, please call Mrs. Evelyn Major, Project Director, at 242-366-0101 or e-mail her at lyn-truman@oii.net.

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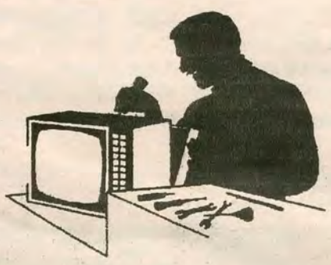

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Bank Offers First Aid Training

Commonwealth Bank offered a first aid training program the course was offered by John Neely, Director of the Start Line Emergency Training Company. This will prepare people for emergencies at home as well as work.

Police Report May 19 to June 2

Provided by the Police Department

May 19 Murphy Town resident reported that her 15-year old daughter was missing. The young girl is believed to be with a young man who answers to the name of Andrew. Police action was requested.

May 19 in the evening two men were arrested in Government Subdivision for possession of approximately one gram of marijuana. They were charged and granted bail.

May 20 two Murphy Town residents were arrested at Charlie Boo Yard in Marsh Harbour for possession of half a gram of marijuana. They were charged and granted bail.

May 21 Claudius Francis of Murphy Town reported the sudden death of an infant, Latario Lauren Johnson, son of Ricardo Johnson, last seen alive by the baby sitter. Time of death believed to be in late afternoon. Police are investigating what is believed to be a suspicious death.

May 21 a lady from Dundas Town reported being punched in face and body by boyfriend.

May 21 in the early morning hours a resident of the Mud in Marsh Harbour was arrested for vagrancy on Bay Street, Marsh Harbour.

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Mature Bahamian lady needed to do light housework and watch kids for summer. Interested persons only call 367-4352.

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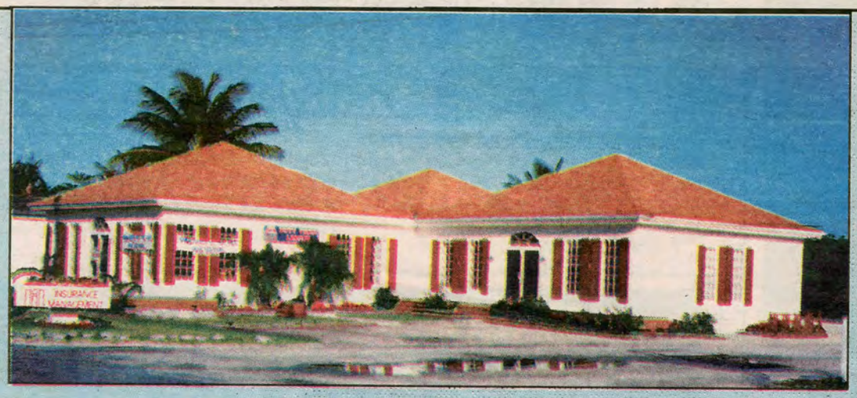

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