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VOLUME 9, NUMBER 23, DECEMBER 1st, 2001

Freight Dock Work Begins

Contract with American Bridge is signed November 17



The Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Hubert A. Ingraham, was present at the signing of the contract for the construction of the new freight dock in Marsh Harbour which took place on site. He is shown at the lectern. Ms. Anita Bernard, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Works and the Hon. Kenneth Russell, Minister of Public Works, are seated at the table preparatory to the signing. Mr. Lester Snyder signed for American Bridge. In the background is a large crane which will be doing the dredging of a turning basin and a new channel out of the harbour. Also visible is the Duke of Topsail at the present dock.

The contract for the construction of a new freight dock in Marsh Harbour was signed in Marsh Harbour on November 17. Witnessing the signing was the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Hubert Ingraham, who was the speaker at the ceremony. American Bridge submitted the winning bid of \$12.6 million. Other bids were as high as \$22 million. After negotiating with the company and making changes in the design, the government finally agreed to \$11.1 million. The dock is due to be completed by December 2002. This represents the largest infra structural project ever undertaken in the Family Islands.

Signing on behalf of the government was the Hon. Kenneth Russell, Minister of Public Works and Ms. Anita Bernard, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Works. Vice-President of American Bridge Mr. Lester Snyder signed for American Bridge.

A total of 15 contractors showed interest in doing the construction including seven Bahamian companies. Only five companies were approved in the pre-qualifying exercise.

American Bridge will be completing the work which will include fencing and other security measures. A new road will be built to allow freight to be transported to S.C.

Please see **Dock**

Page 2

Show Includes Student Artists



Students from three schools displayed their art work and offered it for sale at the annual art show at the Hope Town Harbour Lodge on November 23.

By Stephanie Humblestone

The annual art show at the Hope Town Harbour Lodge on November 23rd was a great success in terms of artistic expression and public attendance. This year there were many familiar faces with new and exciting work and a few new faces and, with Abaco's artistic talent greatly diversified, the show brought together a num-

ber of different mediums.

It all began with the children. At the door of the Hope Town Harbour Lodge 15-year-old Lakeisha Lightbourne, a Long Bay student, greeted visitors with an example of her work, a finely executed sketch of a horse. Nearby was a stand displaying draw-

Please see **Art Show**

Page 11

Little Miss Abaco Is Chosen



November 17 was the big night when the Little Miss Abaco title was given to Miss Mangoes, Antonia Wright, in the older division and Little Miss Bahamas Realty, Brieonna Russell, in the younger division. Standing with them is Miss World Bahamas, Latia Bowe, who had worked with them and coached them in teh ways of beauty pageants.

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Dock Construction Has Begun

Dock *From Page 1*

Bootle Highway bypassing the center of Marsh Harbour.

Government acquired 7.5 acres of land for the dock project costing nearly \$2 million. The Pizza Hut property owners will be paid more than \$600,000 which they can expect to receive before Christmas.

Environmental issues were taken into account and the project has met all reasonable standards. Two senior citizens, Mr. James Wallace and Ms. Sylvia St. Louis, are being displaced. The government is building two

small houses for them on government land behind the Garnet Archer Building.

The administration building on the site will accommodate offices for Immigration, agricultural inspectors, Police, port administration and shipping companies in addition to Customs. The customs warehouse will be 13,500 square feet and will include two weigh scales. The entire project will include 45,000 square feet of dock space.

A ferry dock will be built on the far western part of the land for the Guana Cay and Scotland Cay ferries with adequate parking.

Abaco's Economy Is Growing

During the ceremony for the signing of the new freight dock the Prime Minister spoke about the slow economy generally. The economy worldwide has slowed and the terrorist attacks in September brought tourism to a standstill. For The Bahamas the damage from Hurricane Michelle was another blow. However, Ministry of Tourism figures show a comeback by the beginning of November. He commented on the strength and resiliency of the Abaco economy. He expects that Abaco will do well. He was encouraged that, after many years of disappointment, the acquisition and redevelopment of the Treasure Cay Hotel property now appears probable.

Many Abaconians are returning to the island and many are venturing on their own into the tourism industry. Abaco now has the infra structure to support many new ventures. Government has spent tens of millions of dollars on all the Family Islands upgrading airports, and docks, extending electricity, water and phone systems and the construction of hundreds of miles of roads.

Abaco has increased in populations by more than 30 percent during the last ten years, the greatest growth in The Bahamas. Abaco is a land of opportunity and with improved infrastructure, the economy will clearly continue to grow.



The Hon. Kenneth Russell, Minister of Public Works, is shown signing the contract with American Bridge for the \$11.1 million freight dock project in Marsh Harbour.

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Future Projects Are Detailed

Several projects which Abaco can look forward to in the near future were mentioned by the Prime Minister while he was on Abaco for the signing of the dock contract. Five miles of paving will be done in Dundas Town and Murphy Town which will cost \$900,000. Side roads in Dundas Town and Murphy Town are being prepared already and should be completed by the end of January 2002. Five intersections in Marsh Harbour will be altered to accommodate more traffic and ease congestion. The seashore section of Stede Bonnet Road will be paved. The road work in Marsh Harbour will cost \$500,000.

Improvements at the airports in Marsh Harbour and Treasure Cay are ongoing and include installation of night landing devices costing \$800,000. This upgrading will qualify both airports to FAA regulations and will allow night landings.

It is expected that tenders will go out early in

January 2002 for construction of a new terminal building and control tower facility at the Marsh Harbour airport.

Bahamas Marine has completed repairs to 12 docks throughout Abaco which were damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Floyd. This project cost \$1.4 million. The government still has to build docks in Fox Town and Conch Rock Creek and sea walls in Sandy Point and Cooper's Town. There are still road projects to be completed on Green Turtle Cay, Elbow Cay, Man-O-War and Guana Cay. These repairs were necessary due to damage from Hurricane Floyd.

Lots in the new Tall Pines Estates will be on sale before Christmas.

The Government plans to develop a harbour and dock at Conch Rock Creek in North Abaco. Mr. Ingraham expects that project will go to tender before the Marsh Harbour dock is completed.

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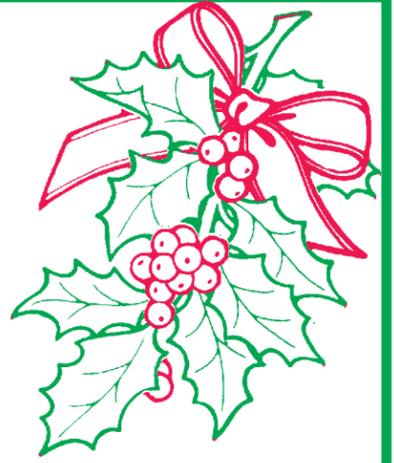
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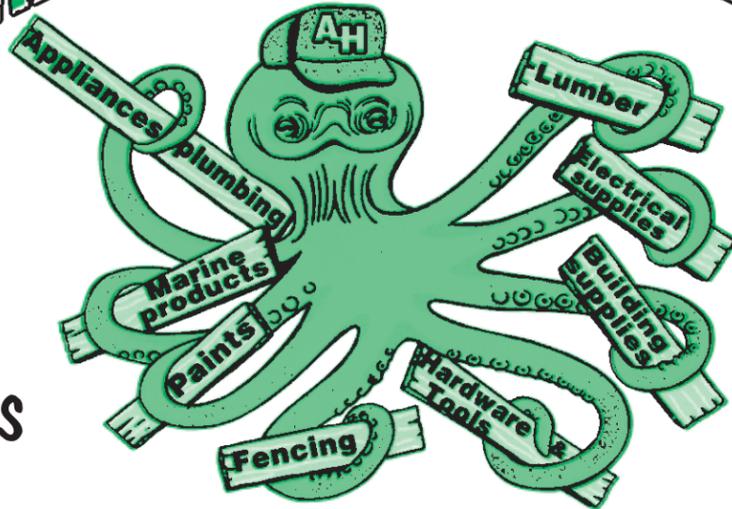
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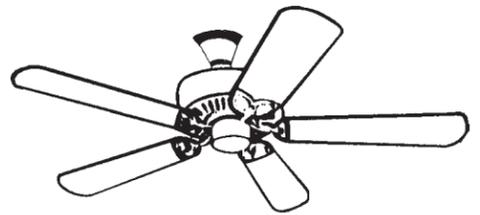
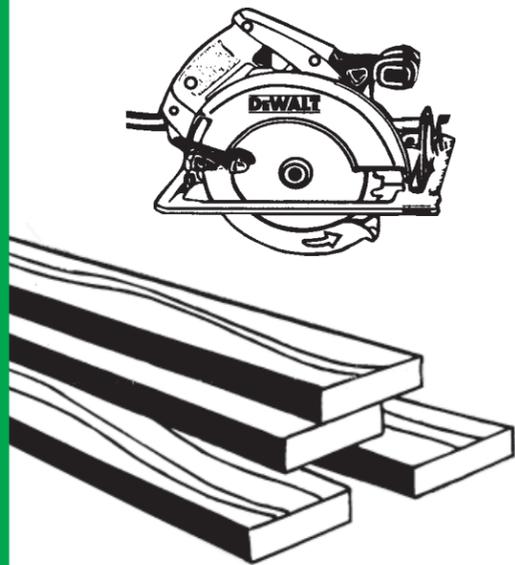
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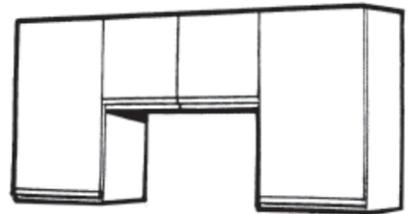
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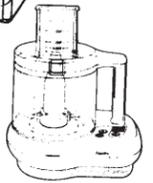
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Hope Town Holds A Box Car Derby

By Stephanie Humblestone

The Big Hill Box Car Derby, which is traditionally held on Boxing Day, took place this year on November 24 on a beautiful day with promises of plenty of excitement. The event drew large crowds from far and wide. The derby, which has been a favourite community event for Elbow Cay and an attraction for visitors, was last held in 1998 and prior to that in 1996 and 1997.

In the days leading up to the derby organiser Patrick Stuart and an active group of volunteers from Hope Town worked hard at setting the track for the 700 foot run. Barriers were erected along the roadside and spots chosen for concession stands.

On the morning of the 24th five gallon candy striped water bottles were placed at intervals along the track and the carts began arriving. They positioned themselves at the top of the hill and many set about making last minute additions and repairs to their homemade custom-designed cars.

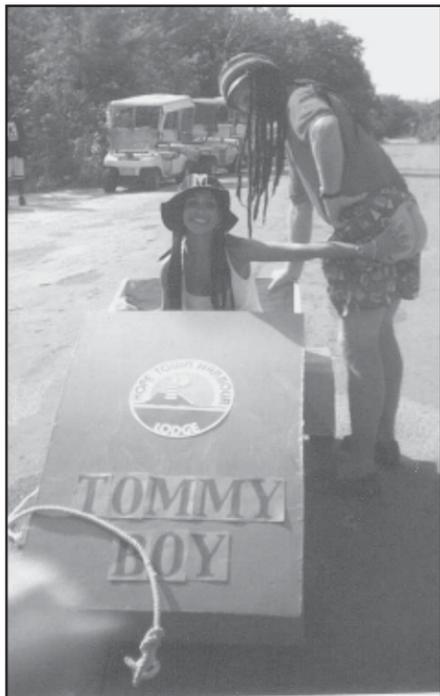
Ron Engle was one of the first to arrive with his *Fish Finder* made by himself and his two sons. "It took us one week to build. The paint is still wet," he said. Ron was a veteran of sorts, having competed in all past events and gaining several firsts and seconds in previous years.

Another "veteran" was Scott Patterson with his psychedelic *Magic Bus*. "This is a slap and go. It took me five hours to make. The kids painted the sides and I painted the back," he said.

When the entry from the Hope Town Harbour Lodge, *Red Devil*, arrived, the light-hearted mood of the day was assured. Tanya Duncombe and driver Tom "Sweetcheeks" dragged the *Lodgemobile* up the hill to squeals of delight from the children and applause from the onlookers.



Stafford Patterson is standing by his box car.



Hope Town Harbour Lodge entered the Tommy Boy which created quite a stir.

There were some unusual and inventive cars this year. The *New Creation* made by Rick Sweeting and his dad was a tribute to craftsmanship and physics. Emblazoned on its front were the words "Therefore if anyone be in Christ, he is a new creation." And creations there were from *The Holy Roller* which was a coffin mobile conceived over a bottle of rum at midnight by Hope Town boys Patrick Cash, Jamie Bethel and Roger Malone to the *Taz Cart* made in four days by Marsh Harbour entrant Charlie Cooke.

It was the children who took the hearts of all with their novel carts. First time entrant Justin Thompson had worked hard on *Hard Times* and *No Brakes* by the Lighthouse Boys from Lighthouse Marina, Aaron Knowles, Nathan Smith and J.R. Rolle, showed imagination and careful thought.

The event began just after 10 a.m. with the "trials" to establish who was to be matched time wise. These were done two at a time. When these were over, the races began. With Hope Town Fire and Rescue sounding the horn for each race, the action started and went on well into the afternoon.

At the bottom of the track Head Timer Carrie Cash clocked each race and Deanna Taylor was at the finishing line with checkered flag. As the races finished, the results were relayed via VHF to Tanya Duncombe, who played commentator for half the time, and Scott Patterson, who took over later in the day.

The fire department not only heralded the start of every race but stood by for medical emergencies of which there was only one

related to the derby. Towards the end Billy Gates in *Ghost Rider* took a flip. "I got road rash," said Billy, as he was being bandaged by Tito Baldwin of Hope Town Fire and Rescue. His face and hands had a few lacerations but his ego and sense of humour stayed intact.

Cameras clicked and the television cam-

Please see **Box Car**

Page 27



Charlie Cooke from Marsh Harbour entered the races with his Wider is Better Car.



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Central Abaco News

Christmas Is Coming

By Isobel Sherman

Christmas is coming and the open houses have started. Simcoe Jewelers and Buds and Blooms in Memorial Plaza held a Christmas open house on November 16. Persons browsed to their heart's content in both stores. Simcoe was sparkling with gorgeous jewelry and Buds and Blooms was decorated fantastically with Christmas trees and decorations as well as a wide selection of possible gifts from stuffed

animals to figurines to artificial flower arrangements, live flower arrangements, candles and other interesting items. Sales were brisk and customers were pleased with their purchases.

Wish Day Proved Popular

On November 24 Jewels Gems and More held their annual Wish Day from 10 a.m. till 7 p.m. Their shop was busy with many en-

joying the personal assistance given them by owner Todd Drake and his staff. Mr. Drakes felt that the day had been very successful. He said not only had there been plenty of person looking but most were buying. Jewels Gems and More has a large selection of gold and silver jewelry in a very small store on Don MacKay Boulevard in Marsh Harbour. They have many one of a kind items.

Nursery Holds Open House

Gardener's Eden held their Christmas Open House on November 24 with many exceptional gift items. The store was decorated for Christmas with four trees and many beautiful centerpieces. Many arrangements had a delightful mixture of candles and flowers. Decorated wreaths adorned the high wall and a singing Santa greeted persons as they entered the door. The crowd enjoyed the vari-

ety of gift items and the displays which were creatively arranged. The management was pleased with the response by the public.

Paving Roads

By Isobel Sherman

Many side roads in Dundas Town and Murphy Town have been graded and prepared for paving. Prior to this endeavor, the roads had just been tracks through the land when persons decided to build on the land. For residents living on these roads the rainy season was especially hard on them.

Youth Enjoy Concert

A concert featuring Blackchiny was held on November 24 at the basketball court in Murphy Town. The concert was presented by Sound Effects and Soundboy and was in part sponsored by the Bahamas Basketball Association.

Please see **Central**

Page 22



Simcoe Jewelers got the Christmas spirit moving with their Christmas Open House on November 16. Offering many beautiful jewelry items as well as decorative clocks for the home, their merchandise had appeal to everyone.



Buds and Blooms was decorated beautifully for their Christmas Open House on November 16. Shown above are, l. to r., Michelle Simms and Natasha Sawyer, who are admiring the decorations.

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Sports News

Tennis

By Isobel Sherman

On October 26-29 tennis coach Bobby Russell took three of his students pictured above, Sharell Carey, Dorsinayer Smith and Claudia Rolle, to compete in the Grand Bahama Junior Classic held in Freeport, Grand Bahama. The students all did exceptionally well as they turned heads and left persons attending the meet saying positive things about their performance. Nine-year-old Dorsinayer made it to the semi-finals and made an impressive showing as this was only her third tournament. Sharrell made it to the quarter-finals and Claudia played well in her first tournament.

Bobby, along with his students, would like to express thanks to all the persons who sponsored them. Special thanks to the Tankship Transport Company from Hope Town which paid for the airline tickets and hotel rooms for the kids.

Body Building

The Gold Cup Classic Bodybuilding Championship was held in West Palm Beach on November 10. Arthur Elden from Man-O-War and several women from Grand Bahama competed. Arthur placed 2nd in the masters over 50. Jennie, one of the woman from Grand Bahama, won women over 40. They then teamed up to compete in the mixed pairs, placing 2nd.

The contest was well attended and the Bahamian team's routine was well received by the audience.

Arthur's first contest was in 1960 making 41 years for Arthur in the sport. Arthur has not set a date for retiring but will take it one year at a time.

Baseball Jamboree

By Stephanie Humblestone

November 9 marked a first for Abaco. A Baseball Jamboree was held on the grounds of S.C. Bootle High School in Cooper's

Town. "This helped launch the baseball season on Abaco," said Mr. Leslie Rolle, the school's principal and baseball coach.

Despite the fact that the high school did not have a baseball diamond they went ahead and adapted. Three Abaco schools participated, S.C. Bootle High School, Abaco Central High School and Forest Heights Academy along with the All Stars from Eight Mile Rock in Freeport who traveled here.

The Freeport team won two games in the category 18 years and under. Both Forest Heights and S.C. Bootle won one game each and in the final game they came together and beat the Freeport team 6-0. In the 14 years and under S.C. Bootle and Forest Heights scored 5-5. "It was a huge success," said Mr. Rolle.

For Mr. Rolle, who played competitively as a teenager in Freeport, the day was part of a dream come true. The final part will be the construction of a baseball diamond. "We really do need a secure field," he said and he is optimistic that this will come next.

Two honoured guests at the Jamboree were Mr. Lindy Russell, Parliamentarian for Eight Mile Rock and Parliamentary Secretary in

the Prime Minister's Office, and minor league player Angelo Burrows, who plays for the Atlanta Braves Fan Club. "It was great for the students to have a professional baseball player there for the day," said Mr. Rolle.

Well known names in the sporting arena were also present such as Frank Hepburn from Crossing Rocks who has done much to encourage all manner of sporting activities on Abaco. "We had four umpires on the field for every game," said Mr. Rolle. Mr. Hepburn was one of them. Another was Elliott Russell, whose son Brenton, a pupil at Forest Heights Academy, has been receiving baseball training in the United States since he was 11 years old. His mother, Lorna Russell, was score keeper. "It was a fun day and everyone got along so well," she said.

As for the future of baseball on the island. With three good coaches, Mr. Rolle, Mr. Jeffrey Victor of Forest Heights Academy and Mr. Charles Poitier from Abaco Central, it looks promising. "We intend to form a baseball association and we will introduce baseball outside of school. We are also planning on having a league," said Mr. Rolle.



Three young Abaco tennis players competed in the Grand Bahama Junior Classic held in Freeport the end of October. Coach Bobby Russell felt that all three did very well. They are Sharell Carey, Dorsinayer Smith and Claudia Rolle.



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Restrictions On Aircraft Are Lifted

By Stephanie Humblestone

On November 13 the FAA, the Federal Aviation Administration of the United States, restored The Bahamas to Category 1 status. The reclassification took effect immediately. The FAA had downgraded the country late last October because The Bahamas did not comply with international safety standards. Since that time The Bahamas has made many changes to comply

with these standards.

The Bahamas along with Canada and Mexico are the only countries for which restrictions have been lifted. In practice this means that Bahamian aircraft can travel to the States without restrictions.

The reclassification will directly affect The Bahamasair. Under Category 2 the national air carrier was prohibited from expanding its routes or adding additional planes. There

were many restrictions on flights originating in The Bahamas, both for private planes and for charter companies.

Abaco Air and Cherokee Air, the two charter companies based Abaco, resumed near normal service one month after the September 11 terrorist attack in the United States. However, there were restrictions. "We were restricted to instrument flight rules but we later converted to visual flight rule," said Mr. Todd Lowe at Abaco Air. Up until November 8th they had to have two pilots on board and were subject to flight deviations. "Everything was slowed down a lot and it proved expensive so we had to increase our fares," he went on to say. "This, in turn, resulted in less business."

Similarly, Abaco Air, Cherokee Air adapted to the new rules and continued operating. They reported little change in their

schedules. In the wake of the attack both companies have had to take a closer look at their security measures. Abaco Air reported that they have a metal detecting wand and are drawing up a full security manual. As with airlines everywhere both Abaco Air and Cherokee Air have heightened baggage inspection and photo identification is required even for inter-island travel.

The government is undertaking to upgrade five airports on the Family Islands. This will include improvements and changes at the Marsh Harbour and Treasure Cay airports which will be upgraded first. It will include putting in place lighting facilities and communication systems to accommodate night flying. Security systems will include proper fencing. The other three airports scheduled to be upgraded are two on Eleuthera and one on Exuma.

Church News

Fall Gospel Classic

By Isobel Sherman

The second annual Fall Gospel Classic will be held November 19-24 and will be held at the Zion Baptist Church in Murphy Town. The theme is *Legendary Power of Music* and an gospel music workshop will beheld each evening. Choirs, soloists, praise dancers and musicians all will be there on the final night there will be a grand performance. Alfred Dean is coordinating the event with Ms. Denise Gadsby is assisting.

Prayer Center Is Being Considered

Mrs. Enamae Parker of Murphy Town is making plans to open a non-denominational prayer center. She has located a temporary building where people can spend a quiet time in prayer and meditation. She expects to construct a building on a lot in Tall Pines Subdivision when lots become available.

Mrs. Parker is asking the support of the public for this project



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The Editor Says . . .

Our Road to Prosperity



The Prime Minister was in Marsh Harbour recently for the signing of the freight dock contract with American Bridge. During his presentation he brought out several interesting facts.

- The strength of the Abaco economy
 - Our robust tourism sector
 - Our linkage of crafts, agriculture and fisheries to the tourism sector
 - The number of Bahamians becoming owners and operators of tourism ventures
 - Marsh Harbour's rapid climb as the Bahamas third city
- Government's investment in Abaco includes:
- the \$13 million dock renovation which is the largest Family Island project undertaken by government
 - five miles of side roads being paved in Dundas town and Murphy Town at a cost of \$900,000
 - five local intersections are scheduled for major upgrades along with the paving of several unimproved roads in Marsh Harbour for \$500,000

- the white lining of the Great Abaco Highway the length of the island for \$200,000
- the \$800,000 installation of night landing facilities at the Marsh Harbour and Treasure Cay airports
- the impending tender for the Marsh Harbour airport terminal and control tower for approximately \$5 million
- land in the 500-lot Central Pines subdivision is expected to go on sale in December. Numbers have not been given but \$6 to \$8 million would be a reasonable estimate for this project.

He concluded with the statement, "Clearly Abaco is on the road to better things."

These improvements are not a gift as Nassau sees our further growth as a substantial contributor to the national revenue base.

It is refreshing to see government take note of Abaco although some would say this attention is long overdue.

With a 32 percent population growth rate between 1990 and 2000, Abaco leads the country in growth. This is not due to an increase in babies. Other Bahamians are getting the Abaco message and coming here for opportunities. Even the Haitian immigrants know a good thing and find Abaco to be a desirable destination.

We are not a Freeport and our growth is not dependent on the whims of a single devel-

opment. We are singularly dependent on tourism but our small resorts and guest houses have fragmented the industry so any individual gain or loss does not create giant waves. The growth has been steadily upward.

Abaco is well poised as we enter the 21st century to continue this growth and economic prosperity. Central government is watching our success out of the corner of its eye. Our growth has been relatively steady for the past 30 years without any central planning or attempt at focused promotion.

Perhaps being organized would mess things up but just wonder where we would be if we were focused. Government is to be commended in providing us with the tools for the future: docks, roads, power, schools, communications and other facilities necessary for growth.

The new Central Pines subdivision is one of the steps in providing for the labour force needed to service the tourism industry.

As our premium visitors (second homeowners) expand their ranks here on higher priced properties, the service industry expands in unison but these persons need more economical land to build on which Central Pines will provide.

As the second homeowner population increases, the subsequent need increases for

- more restaurants which mean more staff
- more cars and boats which mean more mechanics, gas stations and marinas
- more shops which mean more clerks
- more businesses which mean more managers
- more upscale homes which mean more yard maintenance and domestic help

• more people in general mean more groceries, more bakeries, more baby sitters, and more opportunities for those with initiative to establish new businesses.

Our growth appears to lie with the desirability we present our second homeowners and the stop-over visitors which includes our boaters.

It is interesting to note that much of our growth has been financed by these second homeowners. Their investment fosters further growth as their friends and guests become enamored, return and later invest here. Construction continues, marinas expand, ferries grow and the service industry expands to accommodate their demands.

Coupled with this is our hotel and rental house industry catering to those who are happy to be here but do not want to make a major investment as the homeowner has done. Instead of owning a boat, they rent one, instead of hiring their own maintenance staff, they leave that up to the hotel management.

There are several major developments in the planning stages for Abaco. Large investors see the same benefits as the small investor and are choosing to come to Abaco. The challenge will be for the development planners along with central and local government to sit around the table and come to grips with the challenges presented by a large development.

There needs to be more communication and cooperation between central and local government. The Nassau experts assume we are uneducated and need their expert guidance. Maybe - but we do have local knowledge which cannot be duplicated in Nassau.

Our local government needs a heavy dose of experience and professionalism but that will mature in time. Because of our phenomenal and steady growth, our governing needs are somewhat different from other islands with less economic activity. Central Abaco alone has a \$1 million budget and it behooves Nassau to see that they get their money's worth of services in return.

We attend nearly all local government meetings in the Central Abaco District. It is fascinating to watch those elected and appointed to the various Councils, Committees and Boards as they grapple with the inherent problems which surface as the area makes the transition from a town to a city. Although some problems are obvious, answers are more difficult.

The situation is compounded every three years as our elected and appointed persons change guard and a new group takes the reins. The learning process starts all over again and projects left unfinished by the departing group may not rate very high with the new group. There are also the historic town rivalries which come into play. A town may have had the upper hand for one term. However, with the changing of elected and appointed persons the power base may shift putting into play different goals and grudges to be subtly pursued.

The process needs a guiding and leveling measure to minimize the disruptions by personnel changes. As politicians change in Nassau, the civil service provides continuity to the system. Further stability here will come as the system matures and as good people step forward to serve in local government.

Generally Speaking . . . 'Tis the Season

By: S. Timothy Roberts

As of November 23rd, the day after Thanksgiving, Christmas shopping is legal. The season has officially begun, with a mere 33 shopping days left.

Friday morning I was greeted on the television with visions of frantic shoppers waiting with eager anticipation for shop doors to open. On one news program I witnessed a lady who, upon the opening of a toy store's door, rushed inside and, without looking, grabbed the first toy she came to and speed off for more.

As I sat in a mild state of amazement - I say mild because in these times very little amazes me much - at the frenetic scenes in malls across America, I began to wonder. What has happened to this world we are living in? What is to become of us at the pace that we are traveling on the downward spiral?

There was a time that I remember when Christmas wasn't all about "the presents." There was a lot more to it than that. Without even considering the religious side of Christmas, this holiday was about family and giving and sharing. It was about family values. It was a time of "warm fuzzy feelings."

Over the years I have seen the evolution of Christmas and, more particularly, man's attitude toward it and it is an ugly thing.

Commercialization has so infected Christmas that selfishness and pride have become the symbols of the day, not sharing and giving. The peace and joy that are wished upon all men are just words on cards that are fought over at the check-out. I am reminded of a situation a few years ago in which a woman lost her life after buying the last Teletubby doll, crushed in the throng of people who also wanted the same toy.

Can we be so heartless, cruel, and aggressive on a holiday which was meant to bring joy and togetherness to the mind and the heart? It is a sad state, indeed, when Christmas is nothing more than an expression of wealth and pride.

Bahamians are not quite as aggressive, and here on Abaco it is even less so. However, we are not far behind the rest of the world and our neighbors to the North in particular in our attitudes.

This is not an assertion against capitalism. Capitalism, I doubt, engenders this moral

lassitude toward the true spirit of Christmas. This also is not arguing that Americans are more decadent, and amoral than anyone else. I view this as a problem affecting the whole world.

This is an argument for the tradition and spirit of the old Christmas. The one that brings visions of mommy, daddy and kids together with smiles of joy and togetherness while opening presents next to the Christmas tree and then gathering around the table for a Christmas feast.

This is all said without even touching on the reason the holiday is celebrated in the first place. If it sounds like I'm the Grinch or Scrooge, then "Bah! Humbug." I will endeavor, on my piece of the planet, to keep the spirit and meaning of Christmas alive.

Where we go from here, God only knows. I hope and pray the true spirit and meaning of Christmas survives the pervading madness around us, and that we can truly wish "good-will toward all men" during the holidays.

All About Town

By Isobel Sherman

Are Times Tough?

Ever since September 11 the news media in the United States and The Bahamas has bombarded us with stories about a weakening economy. I am not an economist but I must say after talking to a few persons in the tourist industry and seeing some things for myself, I do not think Abaco will spiral down as far as we have been lead to believe. Persons are back in town and I was told by a travel agency that most flights are heavily booked coming in here for Thanksgiving, a good sign.

On the other hand we have been told to save more and spend less. Yet some banks are still advertising loans and actively seeking loan clients. I guess it is for each individual to make their own judgment for their own personal spending and budgeting.

What is Wrong with Our Image?

A few months ago a fellow teaching colleague wrote an article for the Abaco Journal stating that for a very long time Abaco Central High has been considered by many to be the poor orphan and how it was a wrong assumption. Mr. Hardy cited that our BGCSE and BJC scores were above the national average and that many positive things were happening at the school. He stated that our new principal was bringing many new things on line and that we were moving up.

My question to readers of this article is what was or is wrong with our image? Why do persons perceive us as the poor school or even worse do not even acknowledge our pres-

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Please see Sherman

Page 23

Letters to the Editor

Appreciates Good Service

Dear Editor

Often we take for granted those whom we come in contact with on a daily basis and often neglect to say how much we appreciate his or her service to the public. I am going to break that trend and let a particular person know how much his is appreciated.

I, like many others, travel on Albury's Ferry quite frequently and often fail to express my appreciation to the ferry captain for his helpfulness and gentlemanly conduct. His help with the luggage, very pleasant demeanor, great communication ability and his evident pride in his work are characteristics that are exemplary and need to be highly commended.

The Albury's Ferry captain who is being commended in this article is none other than Vanice Albury. Thank, Vanice, for a job well done and please note that our excellent qualities are not going unnoticed.

Let me conclude in saying that all the ferry captains need to be commended in one way or another, but Vance consistently displays the qualities of an excellent captain.

One of your passengers

Comments on the Duty Exemption

The Editor,

Just a few lines, please, I promise. However, I must admit that it is hard for me to exercise brevity when the needs of the average Bahamian seem to be anything but of the utmost importance to the leadership of this country, be it political or otherwise.

There were those who were advocating the reduction of personal duty exemptions from the present \$300 (twice yearly) to \$50. Our Prime Minister has since stated that the \$300 limit will stay. However, I had already written this letter before the P.M.'s announcement, and with a little editing on my part, I would still like to share it with my fellow Bahamians. I think the subject is one that virtually every Bahamian is interested in and many feel very strongly about.

First of all, I can tell you that without any discussion whatsoever, the suggestion of a \$50 exemption is an absolute absurdity. Even in the U.S. where every thing is so cheap, at least as far as we Bahamians are concerned, \$50 cannot buy anything worth going to the trouble of bringing back home.

While I am sure that the economic experts are quite capable in their evaluations of the present state and future projections of our economy, their good intentions do not outweigh the needs of the masses who are fight-

ing like hell to keep their heads above the water. Furthermore, I do not think that reducing the personal duty exemption would prove to be a fix all or really much of a fix anything for our immediate or long range problems. Why? Because before the exemption, Bahamians were shopping in the U.S. and I am sure that even if the exemption is totally recalled, Bahamians will continue to shop in the U.S. And the reason for this, just in case the experts aren't aware, is because our (Bahamians) salaries are just not commensurate with our cost of living, period.

I am sure that many of the job cut-backs and lay-offs recently, both in the U.S. and here in the Bahamas, came about as a direct result of the September 11 terror attacks upon the U.S. But I am equally sure that there are those employers who are using the situation to their own personal gain and to the detriment of many jobs that could actually have been saved.

Some of the advocates of the exemption reduction are of the view that with this measure Bahamians will be forced to shop at home, thus increasing the profits of local businesses which will, in turn, reduce the need to lay off any more employees. Get real! Big business looks out for their own. What would help is for government to look at the real possibility of drastically reducing the import levies on essential items, thus reducing the cost of living, and then enforcing the price control standards to the max. Bahamians need a break, man! A real break! What we need is a few sincere politicians with some vision and guts. Wait a minute - "sincere politicians?" That's an oxymoron, isn't it?

I wonder how many of the advocates for the reduction in our duty exemption are doing all of their shopping at home? It's real easy to advocate for something as long as it doesn't have any real consequence upon us personally. I think that we need to give the working people every consideration possible. They deserve it.

Finally, I never did think this idea of duty exemption reduction was going to fly anyway. Simply put, it would have been political suicide for the FNM at this very crucial juncture in their preparation for the upcoming general election. They have enough problems right now as it is. "So dey ain't wan mess wit dat right up in now." And besides, do we know any politician who would put the needs of the many before his or her own aspirations? Not bloody likely. The Prime Minister has made what can be termed a wise and right decision on this matter. Wise because of the repercussions for the FNM and right because the needs of the regular folk should come first for a change. I, at least, hope that was one of the determining factors behind his decision. So, as the Australians would say, "Good on ya," Mr. Prime Minister.

Sincerely,
William (Billy) Roberts



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Nov 98

Dance Performance Is Planned

The Abaco Cultural Society will present a holiday season dance performance on the evening of December 8. The Momentum Dance Company of Miami, Florida, will perform at the balmy outdoor Garden Theatre at the home of artist Alton Roland Lowe in Black Sound, Green Turtle Cay. This is a return engagement, brought again by the Cultural Society by the enthusiastic audience response to last year's performances.

This year the Momentum Dance Company will perform a full concert of dance works that are completely different from those offered previously. The program includes new works, historic classics and favorites from the company's repertoire.

A matinee performance at 2 p.m. Decem-

ber 8, is organized especially for children. Momentum will perform one of its most highly acclaimed children's programs, *It's Off to Work We Go!* which includes the talents of storyteller and balladeer Judy Gail along with the dancers. A special study unit has been developed for school use which includes vocabulary words, suggested classroom activities, and assignments. Contact the Cultural Society for special group rates for this performance.

Winter concerts have been an annual event sponsored by the Abaco Cultural Society for residents and visitors on Abaco for the past decade. Hundreds of Bahamians and tourists have attended the concerts which grow in scope and become more ambitious each year.

The Momentum Dance Company will be performing in Green Turtle Cay on December 8 at the Garden Theatre. The Abaco Cultural Society is sponsoring the event. The Garden Theatre is located at the home of renowned Bahamian artist, Mr. Alton Lowe. Here the dancers are shown interpreting Poems of Scriabin. Photo by Steve Willis.



Obituaries of Relatives and Friends

Mr. Henry Engles Bethel, 83, passed away at his home in Nassau on November 12. He was formerly from Hope Town.

He is survived by his daughter Judy Ann Higgs; grandsons Bradley and Graham Higgs; and a sister Lily Bethel. Friends wanting to make a donation can give to the Cancer Society of The Bahamas, P.O. Box SS 6539, Nassau, in memory of Mr. Henry Engles Bethel.

The funeral service for **Curtis Adderley**, 52, was held on November 17 at the Church of the Latter Rain in Dundas Town. Officiating was Pastor Alexander Archer assisted by Rev. Copeland Morley. Interment was in the Dundas Town Public Cemetery.

He is survived by his son Craig Adderley; daughters Miriam and Jelicia Adderley; grandchildren; brothers Wilson Russell, Rev. Jerry Cornish, Wayne Cornish, Stanford and Clifford Adderley, Pastor Lernis Cornish, Victor and Leo Cornish sisters Lorelda Woodside, Estelle McIntosh, Viola Johnson and Edna Burrows; aunts Lolita Sawyer, Rebecca Simms and Mearle Feaster; uncle Harman Simms; sisters-in-law Eleanor Russell, Pamela Rowena, Erbis, Remelda and Violet Cornish, Evan and Rena Adderley; brothers-in-law Carrington Woodside, Errol Thurston, Pastor Mervin Burrows and Wilson McIntosh; nieces; nephews and many other relatives and friends

The funeral for Deacon Willard Charles Gardiner, 88, was held on November 25 at the ST. Andrews Baptist Church in Fire Road. Officiating was Rev. Eulin McIntosh assisted by Rev. Clayton McIntosh. Interment was in the Public Cemetery in Fire Road.

He is survived by his son Shelton Gardiner; daughters Shannamae Baillou and Rubylee Gardiner; adopted son Victor Brown; adopted daughters Miriam Murray and Shannalee Sands; daughters-in-law Iona Gardiner; uncle Jeremiah Russell; brother-in-law Talmage

McIntosh; grandchildren Jacquelyn and Cinder McIntosh, Edris Curry, Ken, Willard, Shelton Jr., Valencia, Bennen, Coranell, Mackell and Shanika Hall, Cokeann Sawyer, Carolee Gardiner, Dashinique Curry, Cedric Gardiner, Patricia Bootle, Faye McIntosh and Ronald Bootle; great grandchildren; grandsons-in-law; Alfredo Cornish, Police Const. 1952 Brennen, Evangelist Lyndon and Hiriam McIntosh and Otis Curry; granddaughters-in-law Burella Inga Gardiner; nephews; nieces; godchildren; and many other relatives and friends.

Throughout December the Cultural Society sponsors an exhibition of the recent paintings by one of the Bahamas' foremost painters, Alton Roland Lowe, and the sculptural works of Miami artist, James Mastin. Mr. Lowe's paintings draw upon the local scenes and plants native to Abaco.

Tickets for the Momentum Dance Con-

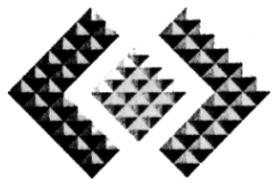
cert will be on sale at the door and will cost \$15 for adults and \$5 for children under the age of 12. The evening concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. The Garden Theatre has a dock on Black Sound. For transportation by ferry, call the Green Turtle Ferry at 365-4166 or 365-4128



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Art Show Brings Artists and Visitors

Art Show

From Page 1

ings and paintings by Abaco's youth, students from Hope Town School and Marsh Harbour schools St. Francis de Sales and Long Bay School.

Moving into the main dining area visitors were treated to displays by artists who are fast becoming well known on Abaco, Hermann Schadt from Germany who paints local Hope Town scenes, and the ever versatile Jeep Byers, whose local works has gained much popularity. Steve Best, also a Hope Town resident, captured in watercolour such scenes as the Harbour Lodge pool and

the *Abaco Rage*. Also in the building was the large display of Brigitte Carey from Tilloo Cay whose diverse collection of acrylics on canvas and fish painted on drift wood proved to be very popular.

Anne Ray never ceases to amaze the public with her prolific work which depict island scenes and local characters. Watercolourist Pam Webb was another whose name is now a household word. Ms Webb is especially known for her painting *Dolphin Encounter* which reflects her love for dolphins.

New to the show this year was Sanches don Constant whose Haitian paintings drew

much attention with their bright bold colours and detailed work. Mr. Constant exhibits throughout the Bahamas, in Argentina and in Belgium.

In the new Hope Town Lodge bar there was an impressive display of arts and crafts from familiar faces like talented Alice Bain with her pottery to new exhibitor Virginia Warner, the Bead Lady with her beach glass and shell jewelry. Ms. Warner's works can be found in many Abaco stores. "I find this work very relaxing," she said, explaining that it is truly a gift to work with the treasures of the sea.

Patrick Cash of Hope Town captured photographic scenes of Hope Town. Patrick is

especially known for his photographs of the aftermath of Hurricane Floyd in 1999. Tuppy Weatherford of Man-O-War also used the medium of photography to illustrate the beauty of Abaco and its ever changing moods.

The carved Abaco dinghies of sailboat Bill were an example of expression in wood as was the large collection of woodworking in native Bahamian wood by Stephen Knowles from Bahama Palm Shores.

Once more Mr. and Mrs. Ketay, the owners of the Hope Town Harbour Lodge, and their staff extended refreshments. Mr. Art Sands of Bristol Cellars provided a variety of wines for the occasion.

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School News

Teachers Are Recognized

By Isobel Sherman

World Teachers' Day was observed around the world in October. In The Bahamas the day was commemorated by school assemblies. The Ministry of Education had an official observance, giving teachers a half day off. The Bahamas Union of Teachers led by president Kingsley Black had a ceremony commemorating the teaching profession as a noble profession.

Moore's Island School

By Stephanie Humblestone

Immediately after the fire which broke out in a classroom cum library of Moore's Is-

land All Age School on September 4th, Mr. Christopher Rahming, Principal of the 165-body school, made a report and requisition list to the Ministry of Education. Since then he has heard nothing, and to make matters worse he has lost two teachers of the ten-person staff which includes Mr. Rahming.

"One teacher went to Acklins and one is on maternity leave," he said. He understands that the Ministry of Education has made certain cutbacks but he is having a problem offering his students the level of education they deserve. "We really need a general health and science teacher," he said. In addition, many text books were destroyed in the fire. On the requisition list to Nassau there were science, reading and mathematics books but now, over two months later, there is still no sign of them.

There is also no indication when work will

begin on repairing the damaged area which was in Section B, a small complex housing five classrooms. "We would also appreciate some fire extinguishers," said a concerned Mr. Rahming, who is determined not to have a repetition of the fire which was detected during a nightly routine check by BEC employer Alvin Laing.

"We are thankful that we did not loose the whole school but it has still been a setback," said Mr. Rahming.

Abaco Central High School

By Isobel Sherman

Annual Awards Assembly

Every school year during the first term Abaco Central High School holds an awards assembly to acknowledge those students who excelled in grades 7-11 the previous school

year. (The 12th grade students were acknowledged at graduation.) This year the assembly was held on November 19 and was led by Devaughn Edgecombe, Head Boy, and Michelle Thurston, Head Girl.

This year's guest speaker was Rev. Carla Culmer, minister of St. Andrews Methodist Church in Dundas Town, who told the students there were three secrets for success. The first is to believe you can be successful. She told them to delete all negative thoughts about themselves which they hold in their minds. The second secret is to determine what is important and be the best you can be. The third secret is to value yourself, have respect for yourself. When you have these three secrets, then believe "you can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." You will be successful in life.

Please see **School**

Page 13



St. Francis de Sales School had a walk-a-thon on November 17 to raise funds for general needs of the school. The students, parents and staff are shown here on Don MacKay Boulevard passing a trenching machine of Cable Bahamas. They walked from the school to Cross-Ing Beach where they enjoyed a picnic lunch.



The Ministry of Education annually sponsors Spelling Bees for each grade of the Primary Schools. Shown above is the spelling bee for grade 6 students held on November 19 at the Learning Resource Center in Marsh Harbour.



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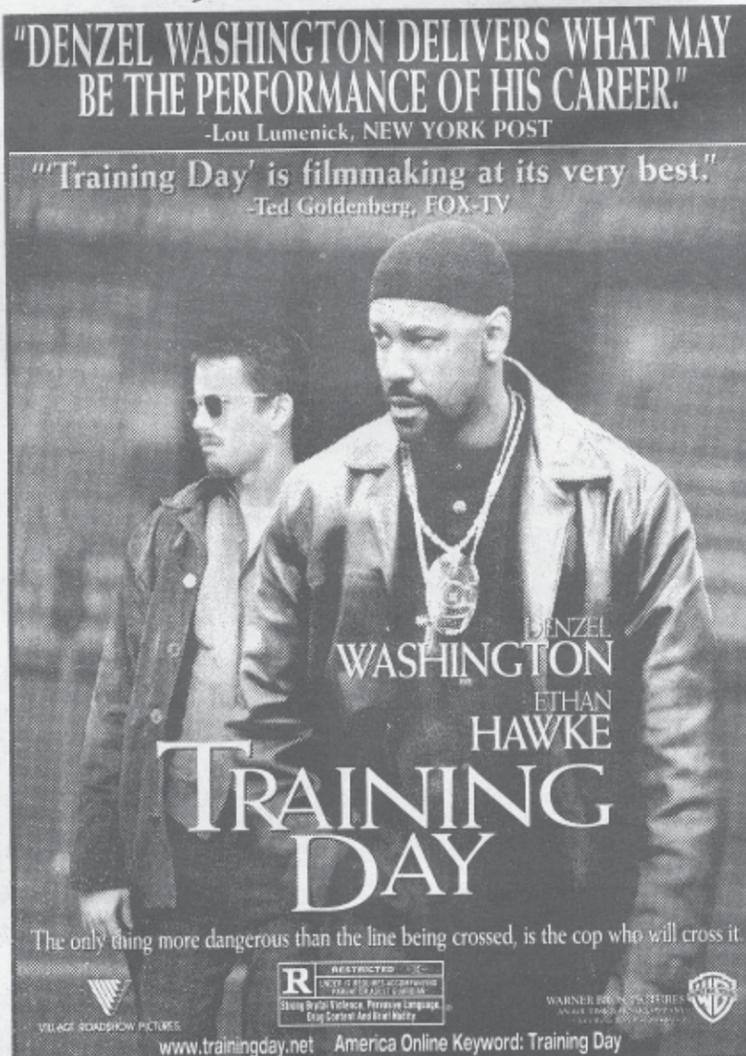
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More School News

School *From Page 12*

Two musical interludes were provided, one was students playing violins and hand bells and the other was a selection by the Abaco Central High School choir.

The awards committee was headed by Mrs. Eva Adderly assisted by Mrs. Ruth Edgecombe and Mr. Mohammed Rahim. Patron for this assembly was Mrs. Sandra Albury.

The Principals' awards for students having a GPA of 3.4 and above were presented by Mr. Benjamin Stubbs, Principal. They went to Michelle Thurston, Sharell Carey, Durell Burrows, Lakendria Lightbourne, Yolanda Levy, Devaughn Edgecombe, Karis Edgecombe and Hillary Rutter.

Mr. Huel Moss, Vice Principal, presented honour roll certificates to students earning a GPA of 3.0 to 3.4. They were Valene Adderly, Brad Curry, Shamika White, Dashinique Charlton, Shemetria Albury, Alexis Brown, Mario Sawyer, Samaj Dorsette, Teneka Cooper, Kristen Jones, Jude Wilner, Beklinda Jacobs, Larissa Dawkins, Javal Thompson, Samantha Pinder, Hernet Nicholas, Antonia LaRose, Michelle Jones, Latora Burrows, Veronica Nairn, Evanya Roberts, Junita Francis, Alexander Roker, Mcquell

Spencer, Roynell Ashnail and Mercile Greene.

Awards for perfect attendance, for good conduct and to the top students in every subject were presented and effort certificates were also presented. Mr. Benjamin Stubbs expressed disappointment that there were so few parents to see their children receive awards. He expressed a desire for a proper auditorium and stresses that parents needed to be present at events such as this one. He challenged all students to work hard, especially young men because they seem to be a generation afraid to labour. Mr. Stubbs felt that this problem must be addressed and solved. He ended by stating that Abaco Central High School is the best school on Abaco.

Harvest Service

Abaco Central High School held its annual Harvest Service on November 21. Mr. Huel Moss, Jr. was master of ceremonies. Platform guests included Mr. Barry Whiting, incoming president of Rotary Club. Performances by the hand bell choir, the school choir and the Liturgical Praise Dancers were highlights of the service.

Guest speaker was Rev. William Higgs, pastor of Trinity Methodist Church in

Nassau. His message was about being thankful. He said that not all situations in life are to our liking but we have to live life and "be thankful to God whatever happens." He con-

tinued that to be thankful in a true sense we first must be humble and with humbleness

Please see School Page 19



A group of Abaco Central High School students are learning to play violins. They are shown here performing under the direction of music teacher, Mr. Alfred Dean at the school's awards program on November 19.



Kindergarten and first grade students from Agape Christian School visited Sybil's House in Dundas Town on November 22 to take fruit baskets and bags of food and to sing Christmas carols. Sybil's House is a home for elderly managed by James Williams.

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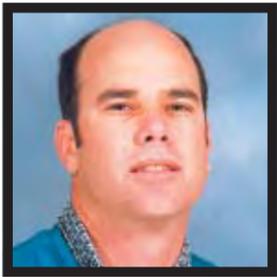
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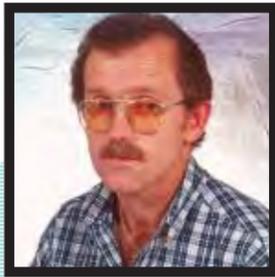
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Cherokee Gets Fiber Optic Cable

By Alice Bain

On November 21st I joined a team of workers from Cable Bahamas who were laying an undersea cable from Cherokee across Cherokee Sound to Casuarina Point. High tide that day was at 11:43 a.m. and it was a very tight schedule indeed to make the journey across the sound without running hard aground. The crew from Abacays/Carib Freight did not relish the idea of having to spend the rest of the day on the barge, waiting for enough water to refloat her. The barge draws about two to three feet, and the water depth across the sound at high tide was averaging four and a half feet. Not much margin for error.

When I arrived on the barge that morning, the men had unwound a length of cable over the side from a gigantic spool mounted on the front of the boat and were in the process of putting together a guide from bits of lumber and nailing it to the deck next to the bridge. This would ensure that the cable unspooled in a regular fashion without kinks or coils and that it cleared the propellers at the stern of the barge before it hit the sea floor.

Fiberoptic cable comes in three-mile spools, and each mile is marked off with a red tie. Each spool weighs eight tons. The cable itself is heavy duty - the fiberoptic component is only about a centimeter or so thick, but it is enclosed, supported and guarded by two layers of wound steel and impregnated throughout with a tarlike waterproofing substance. Mike Glavine is the civil construc-

tion manager from Cable Bahamas who was overseeing the project, and by the time it was done, he, his band of workers, the Abacays crew and the barge itself were all liberally bespattered with this tar. I'm still finding bits of it on my shoes and clothes that I wore that day, and even between the pages of notepaper on my clipboard!

Once the barge was under way, the unspooling went relatively smoothly. We ran aground twice but ploughed through the sandy bottom with little trouble. The barge reached its destination point, about 1000 feet off the beach at Casuarina Point, at exactly high tide. Abacays put two anchors out, and the Cable Bahamas crew jumped overboard into the waist-high water and proceeded to pull the cable onto the beach manually. As the cable unspooled, I noticed odd bits of cardboard and plastic strips between the layers - presumably to keep the cable from getting jammed. As the unspooling continued, however, I noticed a different, stranger object.

"What's that?" I asked, pointing, from my perch up on the bridge.

Julio Brathwaite, a cameraman for Cable Bahamas who was shooting footage for a self-documentary to be shown on cable channel 12 in Nassau, called back, "A glove!"

Apparently it's not uncommon for unlucky workmen who spool the cable to get a glove caught in the spooling.

"Any fingers in there?" I called back. Julio looked grave. "It's entirely possible,"

he replied. One of the Abacays crew kicked the glove to one side. It didn't appear to me to contain any wayward digits, although I did not examine it closely. Hopefully, the glove's previous owner had gotten away with nothing more than a bruised and purple fingernail! As the men pulling the cable worked their way closer to the beach, Mike Glavine suggested that I go ashore in the small speed-

boat which they had tending the barge.

Graceful to the last, I tripped over the cable where it coiled over the side of the barge and nearly ditched myself into the water along with my camera and clipboard - I suppose this is when most of the tar I later found on

Please see **Cable**

Page 15



Laying an underwater cable between Casuarina Point and Cherokee proved to be a long tedious job for a Cable Bahamas crew and the Abacays freight boat crew. This cable will give the residents of Cherokee cable television as well as the potential for cable access to the Internet soon.

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The teachers at Central Abaco Primary were the winners of the volleyball tournament held in October. The tournament was part of the activities organized to observe Local Government month in October.



A painted line in front of Bahamas Family Market shows the edge of the proposed turning lane at the traffic light in Marsh Harbour. A turning lane or round-about are planned for several Marsh Harbour intersections.

Displaced Bahamians Get Houses

By Stephanie Humblestone

Two houses belonging to Bahamians which were in the area of new government dock construction are scheduled to be pulled down and new structures are now being erected. The homes belonging to Ms. Sylvia St. Louis and James Wallace were in a sad state of repair from storms and age.

Although the new houses border on the low lying area called the Mud, which houses many Haitian families, they are on government land. "The houses are almost 50 percent complete," said Mr. John Schaeffer, Abaco's resident civil engineer with the Ministry of Works.

Mr. Schaeffer confirmed that the two houses on the roundabout opposite the dock area which house the Chief Customs Officer and two other Customs officials will have to come down. This will happen early next year.



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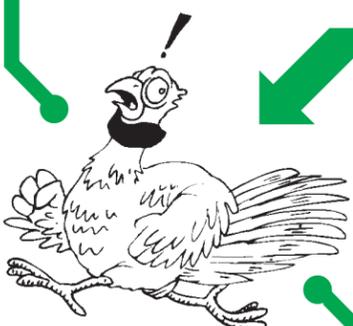
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Business Updates

Architect Timothy Neil has moved into the new building at Royal Harbour near the Abaco Resort entrance. His office is upstairs adjacent to the law offices of Frederik Gottlieb and his phone is 367-5415.

Lonnie Albury has constructed 20 storage units on Crockett Drive adjacent to the K & S Auto Service station. The two storage buildings have individual bays each 10 feet by 20 feet. Several of the adjoining bays are joined giving a 20 foot by 20 foot space. These are behind the building recently renovated into three commercial office spaces and will soon be occupied by Hope House. Mr. Albury can be contacted at 367-4764.

The Detour is the new disco and night-

club in the newly renovated building previously known as the Highway Club on Don MacKay Boulevard across from Abaco Wholesale.

The brightly painted yellow and black club will be open Monday through Thursday to the public. A DJ will provide music on Fridays and Saturdays and admission on those days will be for members only with single night admission to the public being \$35. Mr. Juan Bobby is the manager of this nightclub and disco which serves light food, provides a bar and dance floor.

Creative Touch barber shop has recently opened in the Barclay's Bank building in

Marsh Harbour. They cut and style ladies' and men's hair. Mr. Jamaine King is the operator of the shop which is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Lacaye Restaurant has recently opened across the side street from Abaco Hardware in Marsh Harbour. It features inexpensive Creole food with all dinners priced at \$8. It is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, Monday through Saturday 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Ms. Christine Ferguson is the owner manager and can be reached at 367-4910.

Buds and Blooms is under new ownership. Melinda Pinder is now the proprietor. Melinda is very creative in her decorating

ideas. She worked for Gardener's Eden and now she is the owner of a lovely store where you can see her special flare.

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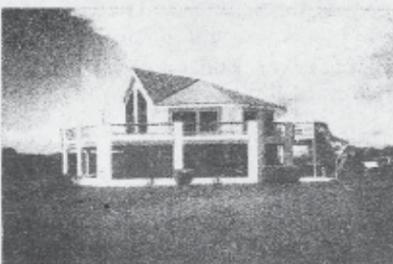


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Art Auction Benefits Cancer Society

By Hugh Cottis

The evening of November 14 will long be remembered for the Cancer Society's Art Auction and party. Well wishers from many parts of Abaco gathered to support this major fund raiser held at Mangoes Restaurant. They were not disappointed.

All the jollifications were designed to raise funds with which the Society will provide or assist in getting a mammography facility in the mini-hospital planned for Marsh Harbour in the near future. Breast cancer is prevalent in our community but is survivable if detected early. Such early detection is our wish.

Artists and craftsmen, both local and foreign friends of this island, donated original works for the auction. These included paintings in various media, collages, stained glass, jewelry, turned ware, models, basketry, quilts, ceramics, furniture, carvings, etc. This assembly provided for a variety of tastes - and pockets!

The event could not have been the success it was without the support of the artists who donated works and those who purchased them. The following is a list of those artists: Joe Albury, Marc Andre, Alice Bain, Louise Blank, Colette Bootle, Tim Burns, Stanley Burnside, Jeep Byers, Bridgette Carey, Patrick Cash, John Cox, Clifford Fernander, Tom Goodwin, Rome Heyer, Susan Johnson, Pete Johnston, Jul Kamen, Steve Knowles, Joan Mann, Marlee Mason, Christine McCully,

Karen McIntosh, Vince McWeeney, Meka McWeeney, Chirstopher Morejohn, Sharon Quigley, Kimberley Roberts, Kim Rody, Donald Russell, Marjolein Scott, Joanne Sturrupe, Laine Summerville, Beth Sweeting, Blaine Sweeting, Harriet Thompson, Tutua, Rupert Watkins, Tuppy Weatherford and Pam Webb.

Many people supported this event. The Society and those who enjoyed the festive atmosphere owe a huge debt of gratitude to Mangoes Restaurant. This facility was given over to the Society for the entire day, staff included. The delicious and abundant hors d'oeuvres were approved by all - congratulations to the chef. Bristol Cellars provided the wines which, with the background music of the popular Estin Sawyer, added to the festive occasion. The Society sincerely thanks Mangoes, Bristol Cellars and Estin Sawyer for their contributions.

Congratulations are in order for Marjolein Scott, who had the idea of this auction, and her team of hard working volunteers. Spendid job! Table decorations were provided by Gardener's Eden, Pine Woods, Maureen Koepp and Dorethea Doyle.

Donations towards the Cancer Society may be sent to Sylvia Cottis, Treasurer, P.O. Box AB 20449, Marsh Harbour. If you wish your donation to go specifically towards the mammography project, please make this known. Other donations will be assigned to such needs as the provision of air fares for patients, clinics, etc.



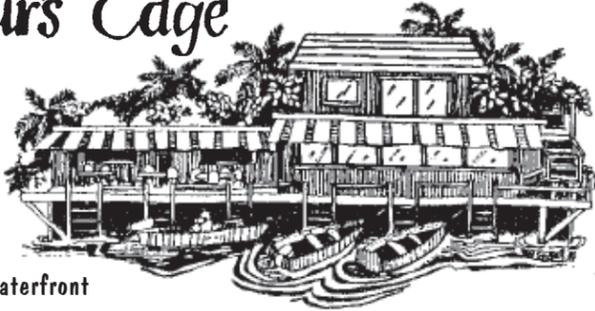
Mangoes Restaurant hosted an art auction sponsored by the Cancer Society of Abaco as a major fund raising event. Almost 40 artists donated art in many different media. The response from the public was enthusiastic and the fund raising was a great success. The funds will go toward purchasing a mammography facility to be included in the mini-hospital scheduled for Marsh Harbour.

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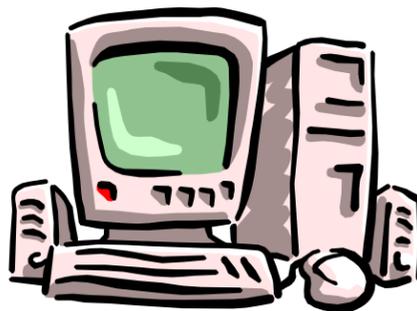
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Abaco Central High School celebrated Thanksgiving on November 21 with a special service and by collecting food for needy persons. Shown above, l. to r., are Vice Principal Huel Moss, special speaker for the service, Rev. William Higgs, and Senior Mistress Nadine Beneby standing by the donated foods.

School

From Page 13

comes gratitude and with gratitude comes the proper perspective on life. He told students to be grateful and give thanks no matter the situation. He cited how the wrinkles in life help make us stronger. The wrinkles are times when life did not go the way we wanted but we still need to be thankful. He ended his talk by saying that we must "approach life with an attitude of gratitude and in all things give thanks.

Each home room class brought in canned goods for the needy. First prize with 200 pieces went to 12 BR and second place with 155 pieces went to 7 FR. The canned goods will be given to different outreach ministries as well the Rotary Club, shut-ins and BASRA.

Choir Travels to Freeport

The Abaco Central High School choir and the grade 12 music class traveled to Freeport on November 16. They visited St. Georges High School as well as the Jack Hayward High School and a recording studio. Accompanying the students was Principal Benjamin Stubbs, music coordinator Alfred Dean and a teacher, Ms. Fontilla Rolle.

Scholarship Forms Are Available

The Abaco Pathfinders Scholarship applications forms are now available. Forms have been sent to the various high schools on Abaco or copies can be obtained from Kathy Weldon at 366-0543.

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Committee Works with Police

By Stephanie Humblestone

Although still in its teething stages, Citizens Against Crime, Central Abaco's consultative committee which liaises with Abaco's Police Department, is progressing well. However, according to its Chairman Randy Key, it still has a number of challenges ahead.

The committee was formed earlier this year when a group of concerned citizens approached the Acting Commissioner of Police, Mr. Paul Farquharson, about establishing a body of people who would act as an intermediary between the public and the police. This would take the shape of dialogue, recommendations and discussions. It would essentially bring issues of concern to the attention of the police force. The proposal was made to Mr. Farquharson in January of this year while he was visiting Abaco.

With Mr. Farquharson's encouragement and promise of support from the police, Mr. Key formed a steering committee of seven, including himself, comprising Vice-Chairman Jimmy Williams and members: Leanne Kaighlin, Veronica Nairn, Percy Sawyer, Charlie Cooke, Keith Basden and Al Cooper.

They immediately put into effect what Mr. Key described as "an organisation to assist putting an end to the increased crime problems in Abaco. "Wasting no time, they purchased two vehicles and found two drivers, Mr. Clifton McDonald (an ex-policeman) and Mr. Martin Johnson, to patrol the streets of Marsh Harbour. This was the first demonstration of the Citizens Against Crime programme.

"This has been working well. The vehicles work in shifts patrolling from Eastern Shores in the east to Murphy Town in the west and Spring City to the south. It takes them about two and a half hours to complete a circuit," said Mr. Key. "We have a vision of how our island is and it is not this."

Mr. Williams sees the function of the committee as "an eye for the police." ASP Russell, Officer in Charge of the Abaco Dis-

trict, describes it as "helping the police and the community in one breath." He sees it as assisting the police to better understand the feelings and views of the community. "In some areas the community can tell us how they want something done," he said.

"I am pleased with a number of things so far which have been addressed," said Mr. Williams, two of which are loitering around the liquor store in Marsh Harbour and gambling at the conch stand in Dundas Town.

"More people are becoming aware and we are trying to encourage this vigilance," said Mr. Williams, who acknowledged the support of the police, particularly in the higher ranks.

The committee is concerned about the small number of police officers on Abaco. "There are only 24 including ASP Russell and his supervisory staff; this is just not enough," said Mr. Williams.

Sandy Point only has one police officer and two reservists and there are no police officers on the cays. Despite the fact that there are 24 reservists, only five or six of those are performing up to par which means they are working in a police capacity for 50 hours a month.

"Abaco is grossly understaffed. Of the 24 for the entire island 12 of them are in higher ranks," said Mr. Key, who pointed out that when the foot patrol was instigated six to eight months ago, it had to be abandoned because of staff shortages.

"Ten years ago Abaco had more police officers," said Mr. Key. The irony is there was less crime then. Mr. Key said that at times there is only one police officer on duty at the Marsh Harbour Police Station.

"One problem is that Nassau counts the reserves and then dismisses Abaco as having enough police officers. This is far from being the case," said Mr. Williams.

Although the Committee is able to assist the police in terms of bringing such concerns to the attention of both the public and the powers that be in Nassau, it cannot replace vital manpower. "We also liaise with Nassau

for things like getting mechanical parts on time," said Mr. Key.

The Consultative Committee is optimistic about its future role in community policing. However, in the same way as the police are unable to work in a vacuum, so, too, are they. "We must have the support of the community and we urge them to communicate with us," said Mr. Williams.

ASP Russell sees this as a vital channel of communications. "Sometimes people fear reprisals if they come first to us," he said, pointing out that such communication would, however, remain confidential. Mr. Williams sees the intermediary aspect as relating more to non-criminal matters and Mr. Key cautions that, because of the lack of manpower, this would not become a "hot line."

Members of the Committee such as Mrs.

Nairn, who has attended several meetings, feels that the public is using the service. "We meet in sections, groupings of 10-12 but the public is becoming more aware," she said.

Mr. Key pointed out that it takes time for the community to adjust to this new measure and the police need assistance. "I think we have reached the stage of realising that in some areas the police have their hands tied," he added.

Like any such operation, it is costly. The annual cost of maintaining the patrol service alone is \$59,000. Earlier this year Mr. Key made an appeal to the citizens of Abaco for support. This still stands and Mr. Key can be contacted at 367-2674 or cheques can be made payable to Citizens Against Crime and mailed for Mr. Key's attention to P.O. Box AB 20095, Marsh Harbour.

Buildings Lack Fire Sprinklers

On November 19 at a regular meeting of the Town Planning Board of the Central Abaco District a letter was read from the Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire Department concerning the lack of sprinkler systems in new buildings being constructed in Marsh Harbour.

Marsh Harbour has had several large building fires over the past few years which have resulted in heavy losses. The most recent fire was the Golden Harvest Supermarket in June of this year. The letter stated that it is likely that if any of these buildings had had fire protection systems installed, the losses would have been significantly less than total.

At this time there is not one large public building open to the public on Abaco equipped with automatic fire sprinkling systems as required by the Bahamas Building Code. Several buildings have recently been constructed or are under construction and others are proposed. Inspections by the firemen have found that no sprinkler systems are being installed.

The letter continued that the Town Planning Board is approving the construction of large public assess buildings without insisting on fire protection as required by law, and the building inspection department is negligent in enforcing the code. The letter suggested that Town Planning should consider that it could be held criminally negligent if loss of life were to occur because they had approved construction without proper safety equipment as required.

The water supplies of Marsh Harbour and the surrounding townships are not adequate for suppressing large fires and the equipment that the fire department has is limited in its

ability to cope with very large fires. The fire department is manned entirely by volunteers and is funded, except for fuel, by donations from the community. The department would like Town Planning to require the installation of fire sprinkling systems as required by the Bahamas Building Code.

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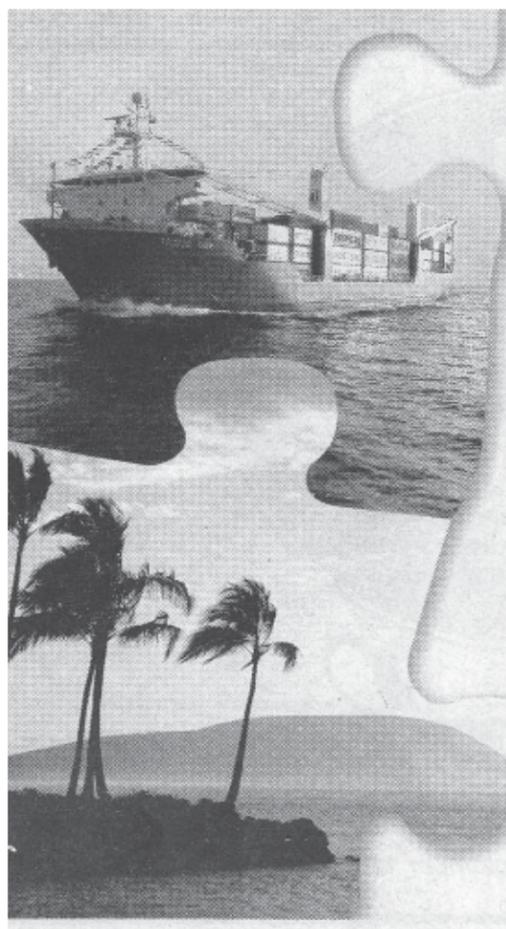


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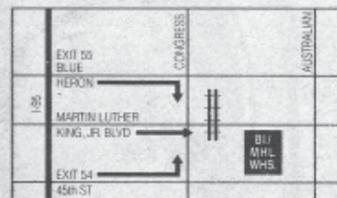
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South Abaco News

Cherokee Sound

By Lee Pinder

Past And Present Come Together To Worship

Harvest Sunday service held on November 18 brought out a good crowd. The church was appropriately decorated with sugarcane and other fruits and vegetables lining the altar, all making a very pleasing display and a good sampling of some of the things we should be thankful for.

Capt. Leonard Thompson and Mr. Michael Lightbourne, both former Members of Parliament for Abaco, together with the our present M.P., Mr. Robert Sweeting, accompanied by his wife Maggie, all came to this special service in Cherokee to worship at Epworth Chapel.

The message reminded us that all we have in life is provided by God and it is to Him we owe our thanks. The sermon was delivered by lawyer Hartis Pinder, a second-home

Cherokee resident and frequent return visitor who presently resides in Nassau. Also present was Sen. Michael Bethel along with his wife and family all regular Epworth attendees.

School News

Mid-term is over and only a few weeks left before it will be time for the end of term exams. The schoolchildren are collecting tins of food to be distributed to the old folks in the community for Thanksgiving, something they do every year.

The headmistress said she wished to thank Epworth Chapel for beginning Kids Korner again as the children all enjoy it so much and really look forward to attending this after school activity.

Vanda Bethel is coming into school each week and helping the children with Christmas crafts items and the students are preparing for the Christmas program *The Littlest Christmas Tree* which will be presented this year.

Cable

From Page 15

my clothes attached itself to me - but I managed to cling gamely to the gunwales and was hoisted back on board. The bruises and scrapes are now healing nicely.

The cable was cut from the spool with a Skil saw and sealed tightly with duct tape, then landed in Casuarina Point with less incident than I did. I hitched a ride back to Cherokee in Cable Bahamas' rented van and watched from the beach as the crew hauled the cable out of the water on that side.

The cable is now in the process of being spliced at the Casuarina Point end to the spur

cable the crew had previously laid off the main backbone that runs along the Great Abaco Highway. I was assured that this process was tedious and lengthy, taking upwards of fourteen hours to complete. When the system is finished, residents of Cherokee will have access to basic cable and in the future will have access to high-speed cable internet connections along with the rest of Abaco. "Basically, this piece of cable costs more for Cable Bahamas to lay than we will receive back in subscribers - it's a goodwill effort," stated Mr. Brathwaite. I'm sure residents of Casuarina Point and Cherokee will appreciate the connectivity.

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We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very
Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

More Central Abaco News

Central

From Page 5

Boat Parade Is Planned

The annual Boat Parade in Marsh Harbour will be held this year on December 14. Preparations will begin at 7 p.m. and 10 to 20 boats are expected to enter. The brightly decorated and lit boats will make wide circles

around the dark harbour. Boats will range from sailboats with lights in the rigging to power boats and outboard boats with elaborate decorations. The parade will conclude with an impressive fireworks display over the harbour which is anticipated each year.

The entry fee for boats is \$20 The Boat Parade Committee is asking the community for donations for purchasing fireworks. The remainder of the funds will go to the Marsh Harbour Fire Department.



Jewels, Gems and More in down town Marsh Harbour held their annual Wish Day on November 24 giving the public many hours of delightful browsing. Beautiful jewelry along with helpful staff encouraged many to make purchases which are bound to bring pleasure to their recipients.



Gardener's Eden held their Christmas Open House on November 24 providing the public with many ideas for decorating their houses and yards as well as fabulous gifts for everyone. Ariel Sawyer is shown enjoying the evening along with many, many others.

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The St. John the Baptist Anglican Church in Marsh Harbour sponsored a dominoes night each week during November. This popular pastime provided much camaraderie for the men of the church

Sherman

From Page 9

ence? Is it because we are down the road in Murphy Town? Is it because many persons have a false concept of us and tell this concept to everyone they meet? Is it because we are a government school? Or is it out of ignorance that our detractors can do no better?

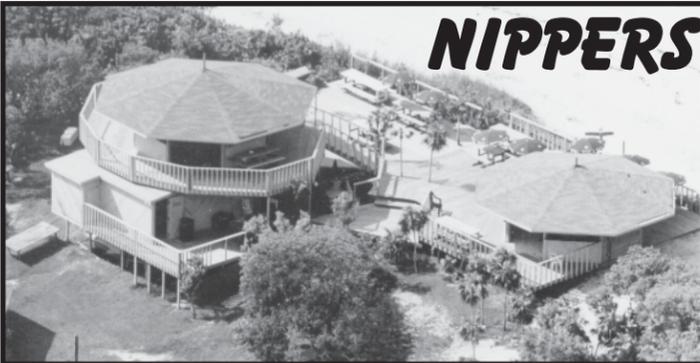
Believe it or not, this matter was discussed at our monthly staff meeting. We are going into a very heavy public relations mode. We are going to pay for time on radio Abaco for a weekly time slot where we can highlight our students' and staff's accomplishments. Look for other things we will be doing to take our great image to the residents of Central and South Abaco. We already took a PTA meeting to Sandy Point.

Yes, we need many things and we have to work harder for those things than some other

schools but we believe we still are the best on Abaco. So, please listen to us when we speak and our students speak. And read what happens to us. We are more than just a school; we are a family.

Airport Is Crowded Once Again

When I took my daughter to the airport on November 25 to return to college, I did so with mixed feelings. As she had to wait in line one hour to check in, I saw how busy the airport was and I remembered how dead it was when I traveled on September 15. Persons were lined up for flights on American Eagle, Air Sunshine, Continental, Bahamasair as well as US Air. I sincerely hope this business continues as Abaco needs tourists and visitors.



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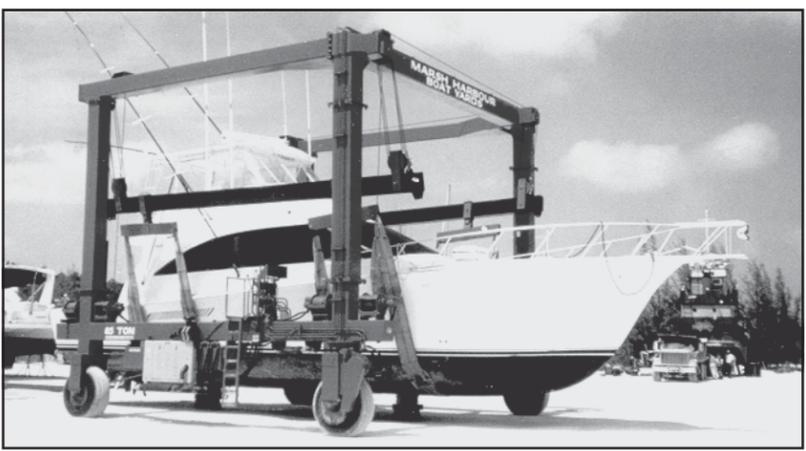
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Viewpoint

The Real Reason for Terrorism

By William (Billy) Roberts

I feel the need to opine on the terrorism subject that is on everybody's mind. The actions of a few religiously perverted individuals has caused us all to now be suspect of everybody of Middle Eastern decent. This is unfortunate, understandable but unfortunate.

If you really want to get somebody's attention, your best weapon is something we all would rather not think about and that would be violence. If we used that violence in such a way that it occurred suddenly, without warning and with such devastation that it brought complete confusion to our enemy, then we will have conducted an act of terror. The term "terrorism" is self explanatory. It completely terrorizes its victims.

What happened in New York on September 11 was a very masterful act of terrorism. It was very violent, it came without any warning and the devastation was so extreme that complete pandemonium ensued in the aftermath of the attack. The terrorists (cowards) achieved their objective. Now it is time for the United States Armed Forces and their allies to do us all proud (and they have so far) and bring their military might to bear upon the terrorists and their supporters, no matter who or where they might be. I don't mean to seem insensitive to some people's opinions but in all sincerity I think we have passed the point of "giving peace a chance." Peace, like its brother freedom, does not come about by chance. History has proven this over and over and a lot of brave souls have given the ultimate sacrifice in the process of obtaining and maintaining both.

We had better come to grips with the fact that the mightiest nation upon the face of the earth, our most important friend and a great benefactor has been attacked and thus forever changed. I am not one given to dramatics, and I think the news media always overkills subjects of this nature. But the truth is that the terror attacks on September 11 are the singular most important acts that have contributed to changing everything for the

"western world." And Bahamians had better pay attention because if the United States were to suffer another catastrophe like the 9/11 attacks, God forbid, we will be in very serious trouble. It's bad enough now. To consider it getting any worse is unthinkable.

Now, I know that there are those individuals who say that the U.S. was asking for this for a long time. What a terrible thing to say. Yes, the U.S. is guilty for having been so lax in the enforcement of their immigration laws, their unwillingness to share intelligence between various government agencies, their overindulgence in everything of a materialistic nature, etc. However, virtually every other country in the world has benefitted from the success of the United States and has engaged in and enjoyed much of what the U.S. has to offer. While there may be plenty of room to criticize, to say that they somehow deserve this attack is sheer hypocrisy.

Historically, the U.S. has engaged in many foreign policy decisions that were not made with the greatest good of all parties concerned in mind. In fact, the U.S. is probably to a great degree responsible for much of the animosity that so many rag tag nations have towards them and it may be that some of that ill will has now reached the boiling point. However, a lot of the ill will generated towards the U.S. really comes about due to ancient historical events that shaped the course of history long before the birth of the United States.

In the course of that history unfolding, the U.S. has found itself closely allied with the most important nation on earth, namely, that little piece of land we call Israel. And that, my friend, is the real issue here - the conquest of Israel by the Arabic nations. The reason for this is because of a very old promise made to the father of the Jewish nation. We cannot possibly imagine the extreme resentment that the Arabic peoples have come to develop over the years towards the Jews as a result of this. We have seen the manifestation of some of this resentment - the 9/

11 attacks - but we still cannot fathom the real depth of this hatred.

Whether the U.S. is an overly indulgent capitalistic nation or just another name among names in the world in not the real reason for the attacks of 9/11. The fact that they are the greatest and most powerful ally to Israel is the real reason that they are so hated by the Arab/Muslim nations of the world. Not to worry though, because the Osama bin Laden's of the world have a very limited role to play in history. Their inevitable demise will be a very terrible and complete one, and He who will bring it about is not neutral in anything. There'll be no straddling the fence, if you what I mean.

I realise that there are many people who

have no idea what the cause of this trouble in the Middle East is all about. They also are very worried about what the outcome will be. I don't mean to be trite, but you will never have a clear understanding of either unless you look in the right places. Just a suggestion - try the instruction manual more commonly referred to as the Holy Bible. There is just nowhere else that you will find a satisfactory explanation. You see, Truth cannot be destroyed. It can be hidden or distorted, but never destroyed. And Truth when it finally comes out where it can be seen clearly will destroy those who sought to destroy it and it will completely free those who sought to promote it. So, let us seek the Truth.

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Hope Town Volunteer Fire Dept.	VHF Ch 16
Trauma One Ambulance Service	367-2911
Dundas Town Fire Dept.	367-2935 or 4935
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Marsh Harbour to Man-O-War 20 minute trip			
10:30 am		12:15 pm (M-Sat)	2:30 (M-Sat) 4 5:30
Man-O-War to Marsh Harbour 20 minute trip			
8 am		11:30 (M-Sat)	1:30 pm 3:15 (M-Sat)
Marsh Harbour to Scotland Cay & Guana 30 minute trip			
‡6:45 am	10:15	1:15 pm	3:30 5:30
Guana & Scotland Cay to Marsh Harbour 30 minute trip			
8 am	11:30	2:30 pm	4:45
Fare • OneWay / Round Trip Adult \$ 8/\$12 Children \$4/\$6 Charters any time • Phone 367-3147 or 365-6010 VHF Ch. 16 Hope Town and Man-O-War ferries leave from Crossing Beach Guana Cay and Scotland Cay ferries leave from Conch Inn ‡ Workman's special Mondays thru Fridays from Crossing Beach			

Green Turtle Ferry	
Green Turtle Cay to Treasure Cay Airport • Daily	
8 am	9 11 12:15pm 1:30 3 4:30
Treasure Cay Airport to Green Turtle Cay • Daily	
8:30 am	10:30 11:30 1:30 2:30 3:30 4:30 5
One way adult fare \$7 (Children \$3) • Round trip \$11 Additional to some destinations • Charter any time Phone 365-4166, 4128, 4151 VHF Channel 16	
Abaco Adventures	
Treasure Cay to Guana Cay - Daily 10 am Sunday 12 noon	
Guana Cay to Treasure Cay - Daily 4 pm Sunday 3 & 5 pm	
Fares One Way \$10 • Round Trip \$20 • Charter any time Phone 365-8749 VHF Channel 16	

Abaco Marinas		Slips Fuel Phone	
Walker's Cay			
Walker's Cay Marina	75	F	353-1252
Green Turtle Cay			
Bluff House	15	F	365-4200
Green Turtle Club	32	F	365-4271
Black Sound Marina	15		365-4531
Other Shore Club	12	F	365-4195
Abaco Yacht Service	10	F	365-4033
Treasure Cay			
Treasure Cay Marina	150	F	365-8250
Man-O-War			
Man-O-War Marina	26	F	365-6008
Marsh Harbour			
Boat Harbour Marina	183	F	367-2736
Conch Inn	75	F	367-4000
Harbour View Marina	36	F	367-2182
Marsh Harbour Marina	52	F	367 2700
Mangoes	29	F	367-2366
Port of Call	24	F	367-2163
Abaco Yacht Haven	7		367-3079
Hope Town			
Hope Town Marina	16		366-0003
Hope Town Hideaways			366-0224
Lighthouse Marina	6	F	366-0154
Sea Spray	24	F	366-0065
Spanish Cay			
Spanish Cay Marina	75	F	365-0083
Guana Cay			
Guana Beach Resort	22	F	365-5133
Orchid Bay	32	F	365-5175
Boats coming from U.S. can clear at Walker's Cay, Green Turtle Cay, Treasure Cay or Marsh Harbour.			

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 Gov. Clinic	366-4010
Green Turtle Cay Gov. Clinic	365-4028
Cooper's Town Gov. Clinic	365-0300
Hope Town Gov. Clinic	366-0108

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
Guana Cay Dive shop	365-5178
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 Divers	365-4271

Bonefish Guides	
Sandy Point	
Patrick Roberts	366-4286
Nicholas Roberts	
Derrick Gaitor	
Ferdinand Burrows	366-4133
Vernal Burrows	
Kendall White	
Anthony Bain	366-4107
Floyd Burrows	366-4175
Links Adderly	366-4335
Valentino Lightbourne	
Ricky Burrows	366-4233
Marsh Harbour	
Buddy Pinder	366-2163
Jay Sawyer	367-3941
Justin Sands	367-3526
Terrance Davis	367-4464
Man-O-War	
David Albury	365-6059
Cherokee	
Theodore Sawyer	366-2111
Will Sawyer	366-2177
Marty Sawyer	366-2115
Noel Lowe	366-2107
Junior Albury	366-3058
Hope Town	
Maitland Lowe	366-0133
North Abaco	
O'Donald McIntosh	
Pope McKenzie	477-5894
Orthnell Russell	365-0125
Alexander Rolle	365-0120
Edward Rolle	365-0024
Green Turtle Cay	
Ronnie Sawyer	365-4070
Jeff Survance	365-4040
Ricky Sawyer	365-4261



Everyone reads The Abaconian

Restaurant Guide	
Prices \$ Low, \$\$ Moderate, \$\$\$ Upper (Based on dinner entree range)	
‡ Provides ride from town + Picnic tables & restroom only	
Marsh Harbour	
Anglers	367-2158
C&G Restaurant	\$ 367-3227
Conch Inn Bistro	\$\$\$ 367-4444
Daily Bread (lunch)	\$
Flippers	\$\$ 367-4657
Golden Grouper	\$ 367-2301
Jib Room	\$ 367-2700
Kentucky Fried Chicken	\$ 367-2615
Lacaye	\$ 367-4910
Mangoes	\$\$\$ 367-2366
Mavis Country Kitchen	\$ 367-2002
Pop's Place	\$ + 367-3796
Sapodill	\$\$\$ 367-2498
Sharkees	\$ + 367-3535
Snack Shack	\$ + 367-4005
Subway	367-2798
Wallys	\$\$\$ 367-2074
Dundas Town	
Ambassador Inn	\$ 367-2022
Murphy Town	
Lazy Parrot - SC Bootle Hwy	367-5331
Hope Town	
Abaco Inn	\$\$\$ 366-0133
Boat House	\$ 366-0065
Cap'n Jacks	\$ 366-0247
Club Soleil	\$\$\$ 366-0003
Harbour's Edge	\$ 366-0087
Hollywood Temptations	
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	365-6380
Guana Cay	
Coco Paradise	365-5197
Guana Seaside	\$\$\$ 365-5106
Nippers	\$\$\$ 365-5143
Mermaid Cafe	\$\$\$ 365-5137
Floyds	365-5133
Treasure Cay	
Florence's Cafe	\$
Harbour Cafe	\$ 365-8635
Hudson's Delight	\$ 365-8648
Island Boil & Sports Bar	\$\$ 365-8849
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
Laura's Kitchen	\$ 365-4287
McIntosh's Restaurant	\$ 365-4625
New Plymouth Inn	\$\$\$ 365-4161
Plymouth Rock Cafe	365-4234
Rooster's Rest	\$ 365-4066
Wrecking Tree Rest.	
Harbour Café (ferry dock)	\$ + 365-8635
Sandy Point	
Big J's	\$ 366-4020
Oeishas	366-4139
Pete & Gays	\$\$\$ 366-4119
Seaside Inn	\$\$\$ 366-4120
Rickmon Bonefish Lodge	366-4477

Rentals	
Bikes & Scooters • Boats • Cars & Carts	
Marsh Harbour	
A & P Car Rentals	367-2655
Blue Wave Boat Rentals	367-3910
Concept Boat Rentals	367-5570
Laysue Boat Rentals	367-4414
Pier One Boat Rentals	367-3587
Power Cat Boat Rentals	367-4620
Rainbow Boat Rentals	367-4602
Rental Wheels Scooters, Bikes, Cars	367-4643
Rich's Boat Rentals	367-2742
Sea Horse Boat Rentals	367-2513
Sea Star Car Rentals	367-4887
Willmac Car Rentals	367-4970 or 367-4313
Green Turtle Cay	
Bay Street Rentals	477-5300 365-4070
C & D Cart Rental	365-4084
D & P Cart Rental	365-4656
Donnie's Boat Rentals	365-4119
New Plymouth Cart Rentals	365-4188 or 4149
Reef Boat Rentals	365-4145
Sea Side Carts	477-5497
Shell Hut Cart Rentals	365-4188
Guana Cay	
Donna Sands Cart Rentals	365-5195
Guana Cay Cart Rentals	365-5016
Man-O-War	
Conch Pearl Boat Rentals	365-6059
Island Treasures Cart Rentals	365-6072
Water Ways Boat Rent	357-6540 & 365-6143
Hope Town	
Bike Shop Bicycle Rentals	366-0292
Dave's Dive Shop Boat Rentals	366-0029
Hope Town Cart Rentals	366-0064
Island Cart Rentals	366-0448
Island Marine Boat Rentals	366-0282
Sea Horse Boat Rentals	366-0023
Sea Spray Resort Boat Rentals	366-0065
T & N Cart Rentals	366-0069
Treasure Cay	
Alison Car Rent	365-8193
C & C Boat Rentals	365-8582
Claridge's & Chris's Cart Rentals	365-8248
Cornish Car Rentals	365-8623
JIC Boat & Cart Rentals	365-8465
Resort Cart Rentals	365-8465
Rich's Boat Rentals	365-8582
Triple J Car Rentals	365-8761
Abaco Adventures - Kayaks	365-8749

Tours & Excursions	
Marsh Harbour	
Sand Dollar Tours - by van	367-2189
Abaco Outback - by kayak	
Hope Town	
Froggies - by excursion boat	366-0431
Treasure Cay	
Abaco Adventures - by kayak	365-8749

Police Report

As Reported to Stephanie Humblestone

While on mobile patrol in Marsh Harbour on October 26 two police officers arrested and charged a resident of the Mud for possession of a dangerous drug.

A Crown Haven man reported on October 27 to Fox Town Police that sometime during October someone smashed a window at his house, entered and stole a satellite card valued at \$200.

A woman in Hard Bargain, Moores Island, reported on October 27 that her ex-boyfriend entered her home through a kitchen door, attacked and raped her. She was examined at the Moore's Island Government Clinic and a medical report was submitted.

A Cooper's Town woman reported on October 28 that someone broke into Amanda's Dry Store through a bathroom window and stole \$300 in cash.

A woman in Fox Town reported on Octo-

ber 28 that a 15 HP boat engine valued at \$1000 was stolen from the utility room of her residence. Entry was gained through a man-hole.

A Hope Town woman reported on October 30 that sometime the previous day someone broke in the residence of a second home owner located in the north end of Elbow Cay. Stolen were a Sony cassette player and a radio.

A North Carolina visitor reported on November 1 that sometime the previous night someone boarded his yacht which was moored at the Conch Inn Marina in Marsh Harbour and stole \$2000 in cash and other personal items.

A resident of Eastern Shores in Marsh Harbour reported on November 2 that a Dewalt Grinder was stolen from his garage. He suspects two males known to him of the offence.

Walkers Cay resident informed the Marsh Harbour Police on November 2 that someone stole seven fish pots valued at \$650. A Grand Cay man was arrested.

A man reported on November 4 that while at the Lazy Parrot Restaurant and Bar on the highway north of Murphy Town someone broke into his 1993 Chevy Lumina and stole two Force Gate amplifiers, one JVC/CD player, one Epic Centre and Cross Over, together valued at \$1900.

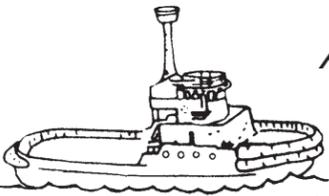
A Marsh Harbour Mud resident reported on November 6 that someone broke into his residence and stole a \$289 television set and a \$150 tank of cooking gas.

A Murphy Town resident reported on November 7 that a driver of Albury's Company

truck caused damage to the side of his building roof, electrical wiring and meter box. The estimated damage was between \$2000-\$3000.

A Grand Cay man and woman were arrested on November 7 for possession of 28 small packages of cocaine and two small hand made cigarettes of marijuana.

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Magnificent 15 acre estate situated at the Northwest tip of Man O War Cay. Features four residences, four beautiful beaches, a boat basin, spectacular elevations offering endless views of the ocean and the sea of Abaco, and unlimited possibilities of what one could do with it.



Banyan Beach - One acre + lot with 200' of beachfront zoned multi-family and ready for condos. The lot is adjacent to the Tree Houses and is approx. 50,000 square feet. A developers dream lot.



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Bahama Palm Shores -

2 side by side lots \$12,000 each
2 side by side lots \$15,000 each
Cherokee Sound - "On the big hill" 4 ocean view lots all with beach access. Call for details.

Green Turtle Cay - 2 bedroom vacation rental cottage overlooking White Sound. Fully furnished, central A/C, turn key \$355,000

Green Turtle Cay - Various lots Prices start at \$55,000

Green Turtle Cay - 2 bed, 2 bath villa with full size kitchen. This is an income producing property. Owner wants a partner and will sell 50% of his investment. Call for details.

Guana Cay - 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom home in the heart of Guana Cay settlement. \$195,000

Little Harbour - Gorgeous ocean front acre lots, electricity available. Call for details

Man-O-War Cay - The last 15 acres on the northwest tip of Man-O-War known as Corn Bay. This property features 2 houses, 2 guests cottages, a boat basin with docks and four gorgeous beaches. There is ample room for additional houses on this property. Call for more details.

Marsh Harbour - 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom apartments for sale. Call for details

Marsh Harbour - 3 bed 2 bath home on a beautiful landscaped lot. Fully furnished. Best price in town

Marsh Harbour - Great Abaco Club - vacant residential water front lot in private gated community \$300,000

Marsh Harbour - residential / commercial building centrally located in Marsh Harbour. Ideal for starter home or professional business. \$175,500

Treasure Cay - Banyan Beach, beach front, 1+ acre multi family lot with 200' beach front. Ideal for condo development. Call for details

Treasure Cay - Canal lots Starting at \$80,000

Treasure Cay - Elegant 3 bed 3 bath beach front home, completely renovated in 2000. Shows as new. Call for more details

Treasure Cay - 2 lots opposite golf course. \$25,000 each

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Green Turtle Agent
Chris Farrington - 242-365-4465

Box Car *From Page 4*

eras rolled. "We are on Abaco for a week so we thought we would film over here," said Director Lee Stanley from the Los Angeles television series *Dream Chaser*." Mr. Stanley and his assistant, David Johnston, mingled with the crowds, interviewed people and expressed how much they were enjoying the day.

The event was divided into the Junior Box car Division, ages 9-13 years, and the adult division, ages 14 and over. Each had two sections - the standing start and the slalom.

The results were as follows: Junior Slalom: 1st Chris Gape, 2nd Justin Thompson and 3rd Bradley Albury. In the Junior Standing Start: 1st Corrie Engle, 2nd Chis Gape and 3rd Justin Thompson. The overall winner after tallying the points in the Junior Division was



Beautiful craftsmanship went into the building of the New Creation entered by Rick Sweeting and his father Ricky Sweeting. The craftsmanship is evident by the number of admirers.

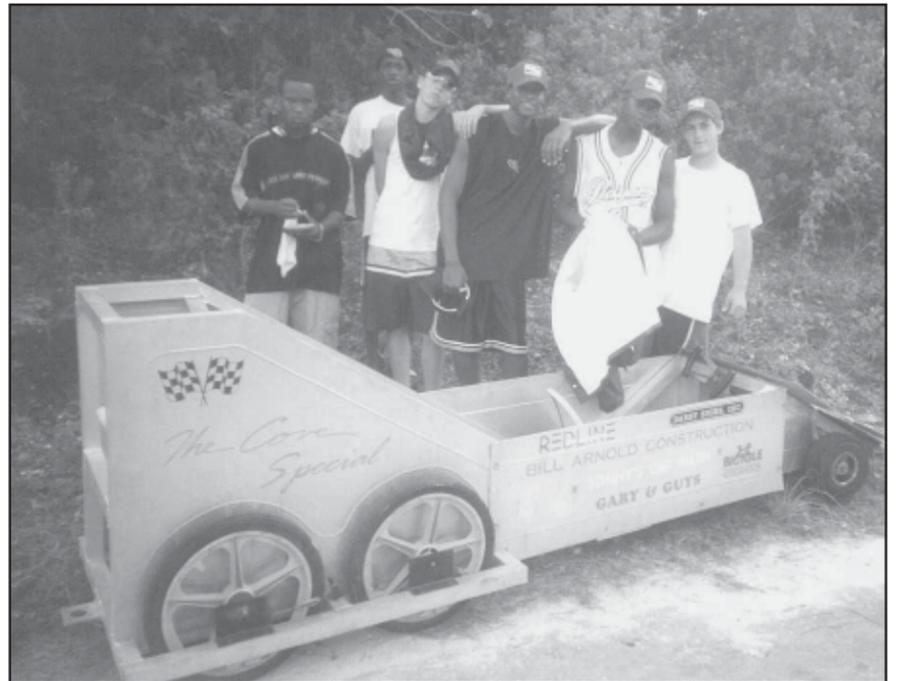
Justin Thompson.

In the Senior Division Slalom: 1st the Lighthouse Marina boys, 2nd Ron Engle and 3rd Shane Cash. The Senior Standing Start: 1st Rick Sweeting, 2nd the Lighthouse Marina boys and third Ron Engle. The overall winner in the Senior Division was the Lighthouse Marina Boys.

The Big Hill prize for originality awarded by Mr. Chester Thompson went to *The Holy Roller*. A trophy presentation brought the day to a close along with a raffle drawing.

Spectators strolled up and down the hill throughout the day patronising the many concession stands, the bake stand of Hope Town school and the food and beverage stands. The bake stand raised \$400 and the T shirt booth \$600.

Many individuals helped to make the day a success. Outstanding organizer was Patrick Stuart assisted by Scott Patterson, Christine McCully and a special thanks to Ellen Hardy.



The overall winning box car in the Senior Division was The Cove Special entered by the Lighthouse Boys.

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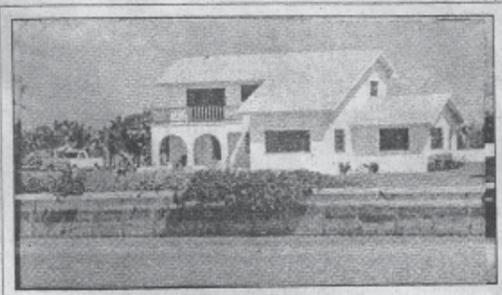


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Treasure Cay - 3 bedroom, 2 bath Home - Canal Front Location - Great Sea of Abaco Views, Good family home - Fully furnished #AB 0030 - \$340,000.



"Yellow Jack"

Elbow Cay - Lucayos - 2 bedroom - 2 bath home 1/4 Acre Lot - Fabulous Sea of Abaco Views. - Furnished # 3709 - New Price - \$495,000.



"West Point"

Lubbers Quarters - 2 bedroom - 2 bath home. 287 acre land - Good Elevation - Private Dock - Furnished - Excellent Rental History. #AB 0008 - \$465,000.

- ★ **Elbow Cay** - White Sound Area - "Aunt Pat's Bay" - Lot #5 14,914 sq.ft. - Great Elevation #AB 5068 - \$225,000.
- ★ **Elbow Cay** - White Sound, "Sand Dollar" - 3 bedroom, 3 bath Luxury Home - 3/4 acre land - swimming pool. beautiful Custom furniture. - Great elevation, Superb Ocean Views #AB 0003 - New Price - \$1,450,000.
- ★ **Elbow Cay** - White Sound Area - 6.13 Fabulous Acres - perfect for development or elegant estate - # 3697 - \$1,820,000.
- ★ **Elbow Cay** - Marnie's Landing - "Savannah Hill" - 3 bedroom, 2 bath Luxury Home - almost 1/2 acre land - Superb Sea of Abaco Views #AB 0022 - \$965,000.
- ★ **Great Cistern** - "Rivendell" - 110' of beach-front on Sea of Abaco 2 bedroom - 2 bath home. Superb Views of the sea and the cay. #3672 - \$319,000.
- ★ **Great Guana Cay** - Boat Harbour area, 1/3 Acre Building Site - 35' Elevation spectacular ocean views - #3610 - \$95,000.
- ★ **Great Guana Cay** - Boat Harbour - "Susan's Cove" - 3 1/4 acres - Two bedroom, one bath home - Separate double-bed apartment, High elevation - great views of Sea of Abaco. Private Dock - Good development Potential. - #3609 - \$990,000.
- ★ **Great Guana Cay** - "Oceanfrontier Hideaway" - mini-resort Beach-front - 6 unique 2 bedroom, 1 bath, rental log cabins- 2,000 gal/day Watermaker - Central location #AB 0026 - \$1,275,000.
- ★ **Green Turtle Cay** - 104' x 80' Building site - #3619 - \$86,000.

- ★ **Green Turtle Cay** - Coco Bay - Beautiful 2.68 acre building site. sea-to-sea, between Coco Bay and the Ocean. Good elevations for spectacular views - Dock. Fabulous beaches on sound & ocean. # AB 5067 - \$650,000.
- ★ **Green Turtle Cay** - Coco Bay - 2 bedroom, 2 bath home. 2.68 Acres sea-to-sea between the Atlantic Ocean and the Bay - Swimming Pool - Dock - Wonderful sea breezes and super views. #AB 0007 - \$900,000.
- ★ **Green Turtle Cay** - "Coco Sound" - 28 prime residential building sites between Coco Bay and White Sound from 1/4 - 1/2 acre priced from \$59,000. #AB 5090 - \$485,000.
- ★ **Green Turtle Cay** - Splendid hill top one acre building site. Great elevation, wonderful White Sound and Sea of Abaco views. #AB 5094 - \$485,000.
- ★ **Green Turtle Cay** - Family Residence - 3 Bedroom, 2 1/2 Bath - 2,265 sq.ft. living space on two floors on 1 1/2 secluded acres. #AB 0035 - \$945,000.
- ★ **Lubbers Quarters** - "Southwest Point" - 2 bedroom - 2 bath home. 1/3 acre land - Good Elevation - Great Views - Private Dock - beautifully maintained - Furnished - Excellent Rental History. #AB 0009 - \$465,000.
- ★ **Man-O-War Cay** - "Outrageous" - 4 bedroom - 3 1/2 bath home. Furnished, Beach Access, Ocean View, Semi-Private Dock. #2899 - \$875,000

- ★ **Marsh Harbour** - Royal Harbour - 9,879 sq.ft. Lot. - Great Central Location. Gated Community - Harbour Views. # AB 5093 - \$59,000.
- ★ **Marsh Harbour** - Commercial - 2,300 sq.ft. showroom, office and warehouse located near main street - on - 14,965 sq. ft. fenced lot. # AB 0031 - \$320,000.
- ★ **Marsh Harbour** - Commercial or multi family Lot - Central Marsh Harbour - 11,920 sq.ft. - perfect for duplex or triplex apartment #3599 - \$90,000.
- ★ **Marsh Harbour** - Great Abaco Club - Lot #45 - Private Boat Slip #AB 5066 - \$275,000.
- ★ **Sand Banks Bay** - One Acre plus - Wooded lots with over 90' of water frontage on Bay - 3 miles south of Treasure Cay. Limited Number Available #AB 5069 from \$63,700.
- ★ **Tilloo Cay** - Fabulous sea-to-sea acreage - 4.267 acres - Splendid views #AB 5064 - \$590,000.
- ★ **Tilloo Cay** - beautiful building site 14,754 sq.ft. - Good elevation Great Views - #AB 5062 - \$42,000.
- ★ **Treasure Cay** - "Beach Villas" - Attached Duplex - Two Complete Apartments - each 2 bedroom, 2 bath. One tier from Beach Excellent Rental History- Great Investment - Both apartments for #3673 - \$235,000.
- ★ **Treasure Cay** - "Brigantine Bay" - 120' Canal front building site. Over 140' deep - Sea Wall - #AB 5068 - \$180,000.

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Local Government at Work

Central Abaco Port Authority 15 Nov 01

Board members decided to request a joint meeting with Council, Town Planning and a representative from Harbour View Marina to review the entire marina situation.

A letter was sent earlier to Harbour View Marina in Marsh Harbour demanding that three unauthorized piling adjacent to a boat lift be removed. A previous request from the marina to build a covered area for the boat lift had not been recommended.

The chairman read a letter from Nassau giving permission for Vincent Higgs to construct a breakwater and filled area adjacent to the Jib Room on Pelican Shores. The Board had previously questioned his reclaiming the land.

An boat license application for a freighter now under construction in Haiti was rejected as vessels of this nature must be registered by Nassau when all conditions are met.

The Board was advised that Boat Harbour's request to blast, dredge and deepen within their marina is under review by the Port Authority in Nassau.

A letter of resignation by Edward "Bo" Roberts was received.

Central Abaco Licensing Board 16 Nov 01

Extensive discussion followed the application by City Market, associated with Winn Dixie in Nassau, asking for approval in principle to open a supermarket adjacent to the Bristol Cellars building on the Union Jack Property in Marsh Harbour.

Board members were concerned that the application requested permission for retail sales of groceries, meats, baked goods, delicatessen items, hosiery, seasonal flowers, gardening items and other items. The Board members felt that some of these items were outside the realm of a grocery store.

After much discussion the application was passed in principle with a request to City Markets to clarify the merchandise according to the category groups listed on the shop license guidance sheet. The Board will then decide how extensive the license should be concerning the merchandise to be offered.

Bella's, associated with Western Auto, was granted a license to sell furniture in the new building adjacent to Western Auto in Marsh Harbour.

Central Abaco Hotel Licensing 21 Nov 01

The ten hotels in Central Abaco will be contacted to ensure that their hotel guest tax collections are submitted to the Administrator's office by the 15th of the following month. Many of the hotels are delinquent in forwarding these taxes as required. One of the Board's mandates is to ensure that these room tax collections are paid in a timely manner.

The Board, chaired by Mrs. Ruth Pinder, intends to be pro-active and will visit the local hotels in early January for a familiarization tour and to discuss the delinquent payments.

Central Abaco Council 22 Nov 01

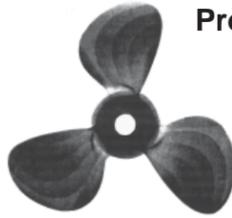
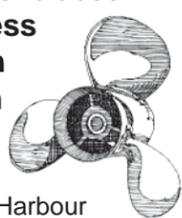
This Council meeting began with members of Town Planning and Mr. Troy Cornea of Harbour View Marina in attendance. Local government members and area residents have voiced concerns over the construction of a building on the site only four feet off the road.

Plans had been submitted in August 2000 for the project and they were approved in principle at that time. Final approval was granted earlier this year. Part of the project

Please see **Local Govt.** Page 30

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Local Government at Work

Local Govt.

From Page 28

included improvements over the water which Town Planning does not have jurisdiction over but which the Port Authority must consider.

The approval process is clouded since the statutory boards only make recommendations which either Council can give an approval or for some projects approval must come from Nassau after receiving Council's recommendations. Waterfront projects are particular prone to scrutiny and may need approval from several boards or agencies.

In the case of the Harbour View project, Town Planning gave an approval for marina improvements for which they did not have authority over. The applicant has apparently gone ahead with some aspects of the project which are believed to be outside the scope of the original application.

Neither Council nor Town Planning could locate the applicant's original plan and asked that he bring a copy to this meeting which he did. However, members were not certain that the plan presented matched their recollections of the original application.

Chief Councillor Silbert Mills had contacted the Port Authority in Nassau and had determined that the over-water improvements were within the scope of the original seabed lease and therefore did not need further approval from Crown Lands. Town Planning members were not satisfied that this constituted approval to construct a building over the water without local Town Planning or Port approval.

Additional discussion arose over the building foundation under construction apparently only four feet from the road on an inside curve in a high traffic area.

Mr. Troy Cornea, representing Harbour View Marina, explained that the foundation actually measures eight feet from the road allowing space for a sidewalk and a four foot strip for landscaping the building wall. Mr. Cornea said verbal permission was obtained from the area Building Inspector, Mr. Edward Laroda.

The building is a restroom block to service the new pool just installed between the road and the water's edge. Vehicle parking has been relocated to the owner's lot across the street to make room for this pool project. Mr. Cornea said over half of the project budget has been spent based on the earlier approval.

Mr. Mills explained that although permission appears to have been granted for some or all of the project, Council does not have the authority to give concessions or over-ride existing laws and that elements of the earlier approval appear to be against existing laws, particularly the setback requirements.

Mr. Cornea gave nearby examples where buildings were close to the road. The kitchen at Mangoes and the deck steps at Sapodilly's were pointed out by Mr. Cornea as examples where the setback is violated without creating any hardship.

Works engineer for Abaco, Mr. John Schaeffer, explained that Mangoes's building dates back into the 60s and the Sapodilly steps and deck are wooden and can be removed or altered without undue effort. They both are on the outside of a curve and do not hinder traffic visibility.

The building now under construction is of reinforced concrete and will hinder visibil-

ity by being located on the inside of a curve. He further explained that among other reasons, setbacks are to allow for future road or other civil improvements and to avoid congestion. He thought the project had been halted several months ago pending resolution of the various issues. He said the foundation appears to be four feet from one of the busiest streets in town.

A select committee is to visit the site and report to a special evening session of Council scheduled to meet on November 26.

Administrator Hart advised that the proper procedure originally would have had the applications reviewed by various bodies prior to Town Planning's review and their subsequent recommendation to Council. This would include the area engineer, Public Health and others as appropriate. He felt that following this procedure would have prevented this type of error from happening.

"Experience has shown that this suggested review process materially delays the approval process," contributed Mr. Silbert Mills.

Mr. Jason Swain, Deputy Chief Councillor, had promised his constituents to reduce red tape and get approvals more expeditiously. He was against adding any more layers of bureaucracy to the approval process which he feels is already too cumbersome. He wants these other agencies to attend Town Planning meetings and give their input at that time without causing further delay.

Normal Council business began at 8 p.m. with Mr. Schaeffer advising members of five intersections in Marsh Harbour that are scheduled for improvements. Plans of the intersections were given each member.

Extensive discussions followed on the dump maintenance contract. Issues discussed included the following:

- the recording of minutes and what information is properly omitted or included. It was concluded that this is a subjective process without a definite answer.
- whether further discussions on the dump issue should be limited to those who attended the first meeting where the contract was originally reviewed. No conclusion was reached.
- whether the entire Council should be required to consider the awarding of major contracts in the future. It was concluded that a quorum is sufficient.
- how binding is a letter of intent which precedes an actual contract. This requires legal advice.

• the fact that the actual contract has not been formally issued.

No conclusion was reached.

The appropriateness of resolving major financial issues with only a quorum present without the full Council was discussed. They concluded that business should not be deferred to accommodate absent members.

Various motions to resolve the dump situation were presented by the two voting members who had been present at the original August meeting. No motion received a second. For lack of any progress on the issue, the entire matter was dropped.

Mr. Paul Swain, Chairman of the Licensing Board, was present and was asked to update Council members on the Solomon's Abaco issue of their license calling for the

sale of Wholesale and Retail Groceries. Their merchandise includes automobile batteries, air conditioners, bedding and other non-grocery items. Mr. Swain was wanting a definition of the "club" concept which is not defined in his licensing material although he is aware of "club" stores in Nassau and Freeport. A previous license held by Solomon's Abaco used the word "club."

It was concluded that Mr. Conrad Knowles, Chairman of the Licensing Board in Nassau, will be invited to come and bring members up-to-date on this and other licensing issues. He will be contacted for a possible meeting on December 4.

The four-hour meeting adjourned after 10 p.m.

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through the channel.

The Bahamas Billfish Championship will once again be holding one of their five competitions in Treasure Cay from May 12-17. The dredging now allows fishing boats to use their facilities.

Because of the increased activity in the

channel, the Texaco fuel tanker will be mooring near the seawall. The dock area has been expanded by approximately 100 feet to allow the fueling of up to three medium sized vessels at one time. The marina is well pro-

tected and has 150 fully functional slips. The Treasure Cay Hotel Resort and Marina is the largest hotel/resort facility in the Bahama Out Islands with 95 guest rooms.

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