Symonette: Abaco Is Caribbean Boating Capital

The Second Annual Abaco Tourism Conference was held in October with the keynote speaker being the Honorable Brent Symonette, Senator and Minister of Tourism.

Senator Brent Symonette spoke of the many changes that have taken place in the past year. Local government has been put in place and is functioning well; local leadership is developing. He then admonished the group to protect our environment as the sea with its boating, diving, and fishing is our greatest asset. We are the cruising and yachting capital of the Caribbean, but we must not take it for granted. We must protect it, not pollute, not litter, and be a good example to help our visitors take care of our environment with us.

We must be proud of our history and our heritage and always remember to give value for the money our visitors spend with us. We have a unique situation; we must make the best use of it.

He made public the new dirty being used in the advertising campaign for the Bahamas. "It’s hip to hop to the Bahamas".

Pericles Maillis, President of Bahamas National Trust stressed importance of Continued on Page 7

Pericles Maillis.

Pericles Maillis Describes Fishing With Long-Lines

The big controversy is over long line fishing. But how many of us really know what that means? We asked Pericles Maillis, President of the Bahamas National Trust for more information.

Long-line fishing is done in large commercial boats which have electronic equipment, power winches and the latest in technology. This technology allows these boats to find the areas with the highest concentrations of fish and gives them many advantages over the traditional fishing methods. It means that they are able to pull in a much bigger catch but it also is extremely wasteful and depletes large areas of the ocean of desirable fish as well as the fish, though not marketable, still vital to the ecosystem.

Long-line fishing is done year round. Several months in the spring they catch various fish as they migrate and the rest of the year other kinds that are abundant. One type is surface long-lining which catches tuna, swordfish, marlin, dolphin, and shark. The vessels doing surface long-line fishing have cables 20-60 miles long, sometimes as long as 70 miles with Continued on Page 11

1992 Abaco Customs Revenue Tops $13 Million

Bahamas Customs’ monthly newsletter, THE IN-VOICE, reports the 1992 Abaco Customs revenue to be $13,623,000. The primary sources for this revenue are duties and stamp taxes, airport landing fees, departure taxes, and royalties on crawfish and farm exports.

A break-down of the four reporting ports shows Marsh Harbour leading with $11,317,810.81 collected which averages $880,000 per month. Freight landed in Marsh Harbour from W. Palm Beach averages 2,500 tons per month. About 2,000 tons of produce per month is exported from Stakes Cay south of Marsh Harbour.

The IN-VOICE reported that the Marsh Harbour airport handles approximately 2,500 incoming and 3,000 departing passengers monthly.

Treasure Cay airport and sea-port is second in revenue generated by bringing in $1,006,056 annually or $75,000 per month.

Green Turtle Cay is third with a annual revenue total of $852,499 or $60,000 per month.

Lastly is Sandy Point with collections of $446,574 annually or $30,000 monthly. Long Island should get credit for the larger share of this as most of this freight is taken there by the freight boat J DEAN.

Although Walkers Cay is listed as an Abaco Port of Entry, the Customs Office there is assigned from Freeport and the revenue figures were not available.

Marsh Harbour is staffed by 11 officers headed by Chief Customs Officer Lincoln Strachan. (Not included in this Customs report are the many additional Abaco revenues generated by property taxes, duties on fuels and goods landed in Nassau and subsequently brought to Abaco (groceries being a prime example), licenses, court fines, stamp taxes on documents and checks and others. Refer to Pat Bethel’s letter to the Editor.)

Property Tax Increase Alarms Foreign Owners

Recent real property tax notices raised a few eyebrows among the foreign landowners on Abaco when the recent tax bills arrived with a new seven percent tax on undeveloped land. The accompanying notice was written in official language which was not well understood by the recipients. In fact, Bahamasians who were shown the notice were not aware of this move and could not correctly interpret the notice.

The notices also contained errors as the increased tax rate was applied, in many instances, to developed property and property whose ownership preceded the Improvable Property Act.

Inquiries and calls flooded Nassau by concerned Bahamians to clarify the situation. There has been no notice in the Continued on Page 11

FIREMEN EXTINGUISH NIGHT AIRCRAFT BLAZE. Assistant Chief John Hall directs the foaming agent on the fire while Claude Sawyer and Grand Sands back him up. The Marsh Harbour police discovered the 3 AM fire at the airport and called the Fire & Rescue volunteers. An entire truckload of water and 25 gallons of foam concentrate was used to extinguish the blaze. The fire, of unknown origin, totally destroyed the aircraft. The plane had been leased by Robbie Nison, who was in Florida at the time.
Police Report

Gun License Renewal
The Police are reminding the public that all gun licenses expire December 31, 1993. Gun inspections, necessary before a license can be issued or renewed, will begin November 29, 1993. Inspections can be made at Sandy Point, Marsh Harbour, Coopers Town, and Fox Town. For inspections on the Cays, check with your commissioner or local constable for the inspection date on your particular Cay.
License fees are: Shotgun, $50.00; Rifle, $100.00; Handgun, $250.00. BB guns and air guns are NOT legal under any circumstance.
Fire arms on foreign vessels with cruising permits must be documented on the permit and kept secure aboard the boat at all times.
Bang sticks, used by divers, must be licensed by Bahamians and residents, or be shown on a boat's cruising permit. Fishermen and divers are allowed permits for these protective devices. However, the police favor the type which uses shotgun shells rather than handgun ammunition.

Police Auction
The Marsh Harbour Police announce that a public auction will be held at the Station in early December for confiscated and unclaimed goods. Included will be household goods, bicycles, and other items.

Stolen Boats Go to Florida
Police Inspector Christopher McCoy

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Marina Restaurant Boutique

Misty Russell of Hopetown tries out a fireman's jacket and helmet during a recent demonstration at Forest Heights school. Third Grader Misty listened with her classmates to a safety talk by fireman Randy Pinder and Claude Sawyer concerning emergencies. Marsh Harbour Fire & Rescue held the demonstration, which was organized by Cecil Albury for pre-primary and grades 1-2.

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Squatter Buildings In The Mud Demolished

Victor Patterson announced that the Board of Works has demolished about 35 vacant buildings in The Mud and Pigeon Pea area. This is the immigrant squatter housing community in Marsh Harbour. Many of these buildings were multiple-apartment type structures which means about 130 apartments were removed from further use.

Mr. Patterson stated that the members of his team were very careful to be sure the buildings were, in fact, vacant. As a further precaution, the buildings were prominently marked with Community Affairs will have again this year their Annual Christmas Carol Service. It will be held on December 9, 1993 and will be a joint effort with the Abaco Christian Council.

 FOX Town Hosts Zion Baptist Youth Group

The sixth annual youth convention hosted by the Zion Baptist Youth Council of Abaco was held October 18-24 at the Zion Baptist Church in Fox Town. Over 200 Abaco youth attended the seven days of rallies, services and entertainment.

The eight member churches are the Zion Baptist in Murphy Town, Unity Baptist in Treasure Cay, St. Andrews in Fire Road, Ebenezer in Cedar Harbour, St. Thomas in Wood Cay, Zion Baptist in Fox Town, Shaloo Baptist in Grand Cay, and Zion Baptist in Moore’s Island.


Philip Landy, a Marsh Harbour lawyer, gave a presentation on the topic “youth and the law”. He presented the

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It has been more than 20 years since Maurice Thompson’s ABOCO ACCOUNT was last published. Nothing has quite filled the void during the interim.

We hope our publishing efforts will help fill the need for Abaco news and information. Abaco is growing and developing at an astonishing rate. Local government is new and doing well under local leadership. Growth in the business community is quite evident. The people of Abaco are taking charge of this development and are forging ahead. The future of Abaco looks promising.

This is an opportune time to launch The Abaconian. Its purpose is to assist and monitor this phenomenal surge in growth. We need to understand the problems we all face, share ideas and goals, and work together. It’s only as we work in harmony with each other that we will truly develop our full potential and realize our goal of a better island for each of us and for our children.

We want you to feel that this is your paper, serving your needs, expressing your views, letting others know your news and the news of your community.

A newspaper cannot produce itself; it needs input from all the communities. In this, we are going to require your help. Let us know your ideas, your news, your suggestions. We will be pleased to hear from you.

The young character on the front page came out of hiding to help lead this new publication through the Abaco thickets. Although helpless, he appears to have grit and determination which are longstanding Abaco traits.

Hopefully, the material of Abaco will nourish this publication much as it nourishes the fledgling. And like the mature parrot, this new Abaconian should become something to anticipate on a regular basis.

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Under new Ownership/Management
Unregistered Dock Usage Could Bring Fines

The first meeting of a proposed Abaco Tourism Association convened September 12th at the Great Abaco Beach Hotel. The proposed "Marina Legislation Act" was discussed along with the ominous implications it would have for our boating industry.

This proposed Act contains provisions which could torpedo the Abaco boating industry. One of the worst aspects relates to a boat captain who...makes use of the facilities of a marina which is not registered under...

Letter To The Editor

Dear Mr. Editor,

I wish to take this opportunity to extend best wishes to The Abaconian in this your first issue. Hopefully this publication will help educate locals and visitors alike to the many facets of our island.

On this your first issue I would like to share with my fellow Abacoians some information on the tax base of our island.

Some research I did in early 1990 showed that the revenue from Abaco was just under $24,000,000 and estimated expenditure that year was just over $9,000,000, including our share of the National Debt which was estimated to be $4,000,000.

In recent weeks I did a projection of the revenue from Abaco for 1992 and came up with the sum of $28,000,000 which I believe to be accurate within a margin of error of three to five per cent.

Let me now share with your readers a few of the items of revenue:

1. In 1989 customs duties direct to Abaco exceeded $11,000,000. In 1992 it exceeded $14,000,000.
2. Fuel taxes in 1989 were estimated at $3,250,000. In 1992 they are estimated to have been over $4,000,000 and in 1993 they will pass $5,000,000.

So, my fellow Abacoians, there is no reason why our main highway and our town roads should not be kept in good condition.

In future issues I will examine other tax items as well as other matters related to the economy of Abaco.

Yours,
Patrick J. Bethel

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SPORTS
Abaco School Sports Thriving
By Tracy and Peter Sexton
The importance of developing sports in schools has been highlighted recently by the formation of the Abaco School's Sports Association. The committee, chaired by Mr. Frank Hepburn, is comprised of teachers from many schools in Abaco, with its aim being to strengthen the sporting links between the various schools and encourage greater participation amongst our students.

The organization has certainly fostered closer links between schools; and local rivalries appear to be even greater, judging from the competitiveness of recent local events.

VOLLEYBALL
The girls' volleyball season got underway with two matches at local venues. Coopers Town High School defeated Abaco Central by 2 games to 0 at Dundas Town, then lost 2 - 1 in a close game with Crossing Rocks.

In the boys' section, Abaco Central team was left waiting for their first game, as no other schools were able to provide opposition. Any challenges?

SOFTBALL
Not to be outdone by the seniors, the primary school students began to show off their talents on the softball field in a number of early fixtures. Dundas Town beat Marsh Harbour Primary 11 to 3, while Crossing Rocks defeated St Francis. Return fixtures are planned.

BASKETBALL
The new basketball season begins in November, and inter-school fixtures are planned for both senior and junior boys. Watch this space for details.

CROSS COUNTRY
A cross-country race is planned for Saturday, January 15th, 1994, with a variety of age groups: under 10, under 14, under 17 and open. More details will follow in future issues.

HASH HARRIERS
The possibility of the first Abaco Hash Club is being discussed amongst a number of local 'Fun Runners'. The organization, which is worldwide, encourages participation in a fun run with a social activity after the run. The emphasis is on the social with runners of all standards taking part. Anyone interested in walking, no matter what age, should call Peter Sexton on 367-3268 or James Poole on 367-3188. [A "Harrier" is a cross country runner. The focus of this group is on the fun and recreational aspects of running or walking, not competitive running. Ed.]

And finally, anyone wishing to report on any sports or recreational activity going on in your local area, please contact Pete Sexton, Abaco Central High School, phone 367-2334.

DARTS - Abacoians Represent Bahamas for World Cup at Las Vegas
Earl Smith and Malcolm Spicer were part of the Bahamas National Darts Squad that traveled to Las Vegas, Nevada, recently for the 9th World Cup of Darts.

Malcolm Spicer was the team manager, and as President of the Bahamas Darts Association, he represented the Bahamas at the World Darts Federation meetings. He announced that he has applied for the 1999 World Cup to be held here in the Bahamas.
Out Island Water Rates To Increase

The Water & Sewerage Corp. recently announced increased water rates for the Out Islands. It is the first change in the rate structure since 1971. They estimate the quarterly bill for the average customer will be $21.00 under the new schedule. The new rates took effect the beginning of October and will be showing up on bills received early next year.

He praised the Regatta for being helping the economy in a very direct way. The figures show that his marina does as much business in the nine days of the Regatta as in any normal month. Peter Smith from Bahamas/Air shared with the Conference some of the problems of Bahamas/Air including a $150 million loss over the past 5 years. Planes were grounded for lack of spare parts and the morale of their staff was poor.

Their primary purpose is to serve the Out Islands and Abaco and should see more flights and better service. Bahamas/Air will soon initiate flights direct from Marsh Harbour into West Palm Beach. This will result in a fare reduction for that service.

Miss Bahamas, Meka Knowles, was astonished at the progress she found on Abaco during her first visit here. She encouraged Abaco to send an entrant to the competitions in Nassau. It is a great opportunity for a girl in many ways. She gets to travel, to represent the Bahamas in many places as well as receiving a four-year college scholarship. They are looking for girls who are beautiful, intelligent, vibrant, energetic, and personable.

Many suggestions came from the floor during the open session. These included allowing expatriate homeowners an extended time for their visits, providing better marine patrol, having charter boats captained by Bahamians rather than expatriates, having taxi fares posted in larger size print in taxis, having the $15.00 departure tax included in the price of the airline ticket. The conference was assured that these suggestions would be considered.

The new minimum quarterly charge will be $15.00 and will include 2,000 gallons. Usage from 2,001 to 13,000 gallons will be an additional $2.30 per thousand gallons. Between 13,001 and 26,000 gallons the cost will be $2.90 per thousand gallons. Above 26,000 the cost raises to $4.00 per thousand. An obscure ray of sunshine in this schedule is that the consumer is getting the larger Imperial gallon and not the smaller U.S. gallon.

Meter connections for residential use in the common household sizes will be $100.00 with security deposits being either $20 or $40. The larger deposit is for residences with two or more bathrooms.

The complete rate schedule is available at the Water and Sewerage office in Marsh Harbour.

Brent Symonette

Continued from Page 1

...preserving our pristine environment which is our main asset. It is our clear waters that are the main attraction for our visitors. We want our visitors to discover the diversity. We must make every facet of our environment attractive, by not clearing land until necessary, keep windows to the sea, have our quarries for rock off the roadways, plant disease-resistant coconut trees to replace ones killed by lethal yellowing, simplify transportation, maintain law and order, and develop and preserve our beauty...to protect our blue holes, our wet lands and our barrier islands as they are all part of our heritage.

Ministry of Tourism Director General, Vince Vanderpool-Wallace, spoke of how the Ministry was redirecting the emphasis to make each of the major islands of the Bahamas a separate destination.

He labled Abaco for its growth and development which now accounts for one-third of the total Out Island visitors. He praised Abaco for the upscale visitors we attracted but suggested that we develop more package tours as that is what is in demand today.

This does not mean bringing low-income people to our area but rather means that for one price, the visitor has all arrangements made. In this way the visitor knows ahead of his trip exactly what his expenses will be.

Nick Czips, of Marsh Harbour Marina, spoke of the boating aspect of our tourism. He spoke of how these boaters put cash into our economy for fuel, groceries, restaurants, boat rentals, gifts. Abaco has more boat slips than Nassau or Freeport and more than all the rest of the Out Islands together.

He announced that work is being done to put in markers from West End to Crab Cay, they expect to dig shore mud out of the north shore of the harbor in Marsh Harbour, lights will be put in important rocks.

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Immigration Policy Given By M.P. Butler

M.P. Arlington Butler, Cabinet Minister, spoke on immigration matters to an overflow crowd at a town meeting. He focused on illegal immigrants and problems related to the processing of immigrants. Although the Haitian problem was foremost in his speech, he mentioned that the same rules and conditions apply to all foreigners in this country. His talk was well received and interrupted often as the audience applauded his comments.

He was fair, compassionate, yet firm in stating that the government will be rectifying the illegal immigrant problem. Residency and citizenship applications total about 10,000, too many to process properly when full cabinet approval is necessary for an application to be granted. Many files are over an inch thick with supporting documents. Minister Butler acknowledged and apologized for the many files which have been misplaced or lost over the years. The only remedy for this is to re-apply.

Applicants here prior to 1980 should expect to receive status to remain here and work. Children born in the Bahamas to immigrants will be considered favorably for permanent status here.

In reviewing applicants’ files, more consideration is given to those with a history of work permits, monthly National Insurance payments and other factors showing compliance and integration into the Bahamian society. It is not advantageous when long-standing applicants have no history of trying to comply with the immigration system.

Haitians applying for citizenship face further obstacles in attempting to get a valid Haitian passport due to the political situation in Haiti and the difficulty in obtaining supporting documents. According to Minister Butler, a large number of Abaco Haitians have asked to be voluntarily repatriated to Haiti. A boat will be provided to accommodate them and their belongings at an appropriate time. This is hampered by the international embargo which prohibits ships from taking persons and their belongings back to Haiti at this time.

Butler assured the meeting that the agricultural sector of our island would get consideration for temporary labourers as needed.

Government is also working to clarify the status of foreigners married to Bahamians. Foreign men married to Bahamian women will be accorded the same consideration as foreign men married to Bahamian women now receive.

Local News

South Abaco

Cherokee

Marie Pinder

Cherokee welcomes its newest citizen, William Stewart Pinder, who arrived on August 12th at 8:11 am. His mother, Laurette, survivor of the Batelco Station, is one of the familiar voices of "Cherokee Radio" on the VHF, and his proud father, Roger, is a well-known Abaco prospector.

Sasha Mac, daughter of Phillips and Jeffrey Albary of Man-O-War, will wed Richard Eugenio of Lower Wood and Meeral Albary of Cherokee Sound. The ceremony will be held November 6th at the Man-O-War Gospel Church. Sasha always gives her customers a winning smile where she works at Joe's Studio. Richard is following in his father's footsteps as electrician in the family business, Key's Electric, in Marsh Harbour. The newcomers will make their home in Man-O-War, much to the regret of Cherokee, but we all extend our best wishes to these ambitious young people and wish them well.

The annual Methodist auction was held behind Upworth Church on September 25th. A stand of green bananas brought the highest bid of $120 for a single item, with $20 for a near-perfect avocado pear and $20 for a jar of candied hognuts - just to mention a few of the donations by friends and members of the church. Of course, none of this would have been accomplished without the help of Pat Bethel, auctioneer and son of Cherokee. "Thanks again, Pat." A good time was had by all who attended this traditional fund-raiser. On October 30th a take-a-way dinner was held to raise additional funds for a much-needed new church organ.

Cherokee Sound All-Age School had a very informative and enjoyable field trip for students and friends on October 30th, to "Different of Abaco" at Casarina Point. They wandered around the nature park and stayed for refreshments at the new restaurant and bone-fishing resort. But now it's back to work and study for a competitive spelling bee coming up later this month.

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Central Abaco
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- Santa is Coming, Annual Bazaar
Making Big Plans
Santa Claus will make an appearance in Marsh Harbour on November 27th at the 4th Annual Christmas Bazaar. It will be held on the vacant lot across from the Golden Harvest food store on Saturday, November 27th, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Plan to bring your children to see Santa. There will be a mini zoo with many animals for children to see and even some for them to pet. Let your children bring along their pets as the Christmas Bazaar Committee is organizing a pet parade with ribbons for entrants.
Proceeds are to be used for Abaco Youth Sports. Further information may be obtained by calling Peggy Thompson at 366-0224 or Chas Boyce at 367-2967.
Previous bazaars have had a delightful mix of native and foreign food and local handicrafts. A few of our boutiques and gift shops have used this street bazaar to sell special holiday merchandise at very attractive prices. This year first, second and third place prizes will be awarded for the best-decorated tables.
This is a great way to get into the spirit of Christmas.

Dinner Honors Gordon Hudson

Gordon Hudson was honored by a testimonial dinner held in Treasure Cay on November 6, 1993. He was commended for his forward-looking vision and his commitment to the democratic process of Bahamian politics. He has been a instigator and leader in organizations such as the Regatta Time in Abaco, the Chamber of Commerce and others. He has been prominent in the life of the Methodist Churches in the Bahamas.

Murphy Town •
by Cleveland Dawkins
Murphy Town residents have formed a Community Association to improve the community through physical appearance and to create better community relationships. Their goals include wanting to interest their children to further their education as well as preserve their heritage. Cleveland Dawkins is President of the association.

Murphy Town (the original spelling) was named after Sir William Murphy, Governor of the Bahamas from 1945 - 1950. The settlement was created when the residents were relocated by the government from Bluff Point after a severe hurricane in the 1930's.

90th Birthday for Jane Davis

Jane Davis of Murphy Town celebrated her 90th birthday on October 22, 1993, with a party. Her family and friends were happy to honor her in this way. She's a very remarkable woman, still loves to fish, reads her Bible without glasses, and attends church regularly. She was born in Bluff Point and lived there until after the hurricane of 1932 when she was relocated in Murphy Town.

CARL ARCHER Jr was born September 27th in Nassau to Marva Boodle and Carl Archer.

bahamian cuisine

Bar opens Daily 10 am (5 pm on Tuesdays)
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Local News

CAYS

GREAT GUANA CAY

By Delia MacDowel

Great Guana Cay Chapel had the ground breaking for a new chapel October 16, 1993. Members worked the week before to demolish the old chapel that was built about 1934. They hope to have the chapel completed by Christmas and celebrate with a beautiful service in the new church.

Great Guana Cay School had a Halloween costume party October 28th. Games, treats and fun were shared by all of the pupils, staff and members of the community.

Six pupils from Guana are now attending Abaco Central High School the daily Guana Grabber ferry and a school bus ride. Best of luck to all of them.

Guana School is making plans for a beach clean-up the second week of November. Come help us beautify our beaches.

GREEN TURTLE CAY

By抟.blogspot.com

Seven pound eleven ounce Rashad Devon was born to Sharon Wells and Devon Rolle on September 28th at Princess Margaret Hospital.

Seven pound five ounce Dillon was born to Michael and Mandy Roberts on October 25th at Palm Beach Gardens Hospital. Dillon is Rhett's new baby brother.

The parents of Green Turtle Cay students attending Wesley College had an Italian night fund-raising dinner on 22nd October. Spaghetti dinners and pizza were served. It was well received and approximately $200 was raised for the Wesley School Fund.

Green Turtle Cay "Petera Christmas" Feast in Green Turtle Cay will be December 4th, 1993. The afternoon will be filled with festival activities and fun events. Entertainment includes a Talent Show, a Fashion Show by Tropic Top, live Christmas music featuring the Gully Roosters plus food at several of the restaurants. Sand Dollar Shoppe will have their annual jewelry show from 5pm - 7.30pm, which features jewelry created in Green Turtle Cay.

The Alton Lowe Gallery, which features paintings by Alton Lowe and sculptures by James Martin, will be open to the public Sunday 2pm & 4pm. Most of the activities are in the late afternoon and evening. The restaurants will be selling festival food and the beverage service will be available. To GT: 10.30 to 2:30, and 4 to 5pm From GTC: 1:30 to 3pm, and 7 to 8:45pm. Round trip fare on the ferry is $5.00. To plan now to attend this fun event and support the efforts of our local communities.

HOPE TOWN

Abaco Inn manager, Larry Albouy, announces their new gift shop will open Nov. 15th.

Hope Town Harbour Lodge has new owners and is being managed by Sara and Nick O'Connell. The rearrangement, and dining room areas are being extensively remodeled.

Lighthouse Marina has removed their fuel dock to renovate the old dock facility with six slips. Construction work is due to be completed in December.

Whipping Fins is now a gift shop featuring leather and art items from Tonya Key's (nee Ballestero) and David Hays' wholesale suppliers. Jack Bowen's is also available to serve the customers. We will look forward to the opening.

The Hope Town Community is doing extensive repair work in the area in front of the Lodge. They are bulkheading, filling, and landscaping to make a park and badly needed walking area.

Earlier this year a hibiscus plant was dedicated in the Hayle Patterson Memorial garden to the memory of Eric and Jeannine Lowe. The Lowes were prominent supporters of the Wynnie Malone Museum and had made numerous contributions.

Wynnie Malone Museum is now a legal society. They are preparing to purchase land to build a structure for housing the museum.

Jacob David Albouy was born September 4, 1993, in Canada. Proud parents are Timmy and Hillary Albouy. James Christopher Albouy was born October 14, 1993, in Florida to parents Mary and Jeffrey. It’s a new brother for Bradley Monty.

MANN-O-WAR

By Brenda Sawyer

MANN-O-WAR

Pavilion Restaurant is now under the management of Marjorie and Richard Eldon. They are specializing in Bahamian cuisine and their prices are reasonable.

Mann-O-War Chapel has opened. The dedication of Hope Town's new Chapel has been announced and the engagement is to be announced later. The wedding date will be announced later. Mann-O-War has started a Weight Watchers program. They are happy to report that over 100 pounds have been lost altogether.

Miss Sasha Albouy, daughter of Jeff and Phillips of Mann-O-War, was married to Richard Crowder of Cherokee Sound on November 6, 1993.

Mr. Tony Albouy and Chad Albouy overturned their fishing boat coming through Manjack Channel during a storm. Fortunately they escaped with minor injuries. Family and friends have managed to recover the boat.
Leonard Knowles announced that the Marsh Harbour Town Planning Board has requested assistance from Nassau in reviewing the zoning along Forest Drive. This area was zoned residential by Nassau years ago.

There is a growing resentment by residents of this area that they cannot open businesses along this roadway and that they have little control over the commercial growth in their community.

Building and license applicants complain that it is not fair that only Marsh Harbour and the far end of Murphy town are allowed new businesses.

The Town Planning and the Licensing Boards are planning a joint session to review complaints and suggestions. Mr. Knowles, co-chairman of the Town Planning, mentioned the constant conflicts that both boards face over the present zoning along this road.

[In October, Town Planning and Physical Planning Dept. of Nassau met on Abaco to work together on a new master zoning plan for the greater Marsh Harbour area.]

Sibert Mills, a member of the Town Planning, announced that the present Board has passed 117 plans with a total construction value of $6,103,000 during their six month tenure. Marsh Harbour led with $1,144,000. The other communities show construction projects valued at: $1,067,000 for Dundon Town, $758,000 for Hope Town, $681,000 for Scotland Cay, $549,000 for Murphy Town, $515,000 for Man-O-War, $500,000 for Cherokee, $417,000 for Guana Cay, $60,000 for Great Cistern, and $39,000 for Spring City.

These figures are impressive but may be misleading. For example, new construction is underway or under apparent consideration for the two Scotland Cay approvals. Other approved plans may not materialize on the ground for a lack of construction funds or a change in the owner’s intentions.

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Rezoning for Marsh Harbour

Town Planning and Physical Planning Dept. of Nassau are working on a new master zoning plan for the greater Marsh Harbour area. As the towns have grown, the current zoning has imposed hardship on which the Board is working to overcome.

Property Taxes

Continued from Page 1

Nassau press concerning this tax increase. There are provisions in the Immovable Properties Act for a tax increase on land remaining undeveloped after the expiration of a two-year grace period allowed for improvements. However, during the ten-year period in which the Act has been in place, any provisions for tax increases have not been publicized, enforced or billed to property owners. The Immovable Properties Act relates only to financial aid for property, and therefore has no immediate impact on Bahamians.

Further confusion arises when comparing this punitive tax rate to the recently stated goals by the Prime Minister for amending the Immovable

Long-Line Fishing

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a series of hooks on them. Every few miles there are radar reflectors for retrieving the line and fluorescent lights to lure fish to the hooks. Many, many fish are hooked but not recovered.

Even more destructive are those vessels using bottom long-line fishing which have lines four to twelve miles long and fish at depths of 20 to 60 fathoms (120 to 360 feet). These fishing boats are after grouper and snapper.

They use steel cable ¼ to ¾ inch with a series of hooks a few feet apart. Since these boats fish fairly close to the reef, the lines can get fouled on the reef. When the vessel winches the line in, much damage is done to the reefs also. Most of the fish are hooked on these lines attracting other fish which in turn get hooked. Most of the fish are not usable but are killed indiscriminately. The area where long-line fishing has been allowed are soon depleted of fish.

The suggested legislation being proposed would allow this type of fishing in our waters. It would seriously deplete our fishing areas very quickly and would affect our economy disastrously. It would ruin our own fishing industry and destroy our tourism that is centered on fishing; that is sport fishing, diving and shark diving. This legislation would allow foreigners to plunder our waters at will.

One of the other major problems of long-line fishing is the disastrous collapse in the shark population. Sharks are vital to the ecology of the ocean as they are the top predators, eating the weak, sick and worm-infected fish that damage our coral reefs. They are essential for maintaining a healthy reef.

Long-line fishing completely destroys the ecological balance of the reefs and the ocean. Can we afford to let this happen to one of our greatest natural resources and assets?
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CHARLES SANDS, 66, died November 15th in Marsh Harbour. Charles was born in Cherokee and moved to Man-O-War Cay as a young man as a boat carpenter. More recently he was a building contractor in Marsh Harbour.

Survivors include his wife, Marie; three sisters; Margaret Sweeting, Venel Roberts, and Lola Sawyer; three daughters, Shirlene Roberts, Cheryl Bethel, and Julie Darville. Also included are many grandchildren and other relatives.

The Bible Truth Hall in Marsh Harbour held the funeral service.

ALEXANDER GEORGE SAWYER, 46, of Marsh Harbour died September 24, 1993, after a prolonged stay in a Miami hospital.

He was born in Cherokee in 1947 and lived there until the mid-1960's when he moved to Marsh Harbour. He worked for the BAIL sugar industry, then became a master mechanic. He was known as the "Boat Doctor".

Survivors include his wife, Sandra; daughter, Bernadette; grandchildren, Dexter & Randel; son-in-law, Randy; brothers, Clyde, Chesney, Theodore, Glen, Andy and Will; sisters, Patsy and Ruth.

JACK STORR, noted oceanographer and limnologist, passed away suddenly August 18, 1993, at his home in Hope Town.

Dr. Storr was a retired professor at the University of Buffalo in New York and a regular summer resident of Hope Town.

He is survived by his wife Rhoda, son Gordon; daughter-in-law Sally; and two grandchildren.