

LUCAYA-THE BLOOMING DEBUTANTE

FREEPORT/LUCAYA is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. Its development from barren pinelands in 1955 is one of the economic legends of this region.

But Freeport's resort district, Lucaya, was born five years later to attract tourists to the island of Grand Bahama. At this she has excelled. So much so that Freeport, originally conceived as an industrial free zone is now a booming tourist resort.

In this anniversary year as Lucaya enters her second decade, four major developments are taking place here to bolster tourism through the eighties.

The first hotel to be built in Freeport/Lucaya was the Lucayan Beach, which opened in

1964. This luxury resort closed after a devastating fire in the early 1970s. But in December of this year, it will re-open following a \$10 million renovation by the publicly-owned Hotel Corporation of the Bahamas.

The second major development is the Monte Carlo Casino, also scheduled for a winter opening. This casino, the first on Grand Bahama, was destroyed in the same fire which closed the Lucayan Beach. The famous El Casino was built in the mid 70s to replace it.

Next door to the Lucayan Beach/Monte Carlo complex, construction is due to begin soon on a 250-room luxury hotel by Resorts International, owners of the Paradise Island resort com-

plex in Nassau, the Bahamas' capital.

The fourth major development will be built across the street from the new Resorts property, the perfect companion to the International Bazaar which helped to make Freeport/Lucaya famous. A detailed and authentic re-creation of New Orleans' historic Bourbon Street will feature New Orleans style restaurants, a twin theatre and a bandstand for jazz performances. The complex will cost about \$4.5 million.

These new facilities, in addition to existing attractions will go a long way towards maintaining Freeport/Lucaya's reputation as an ideal vacation destination.