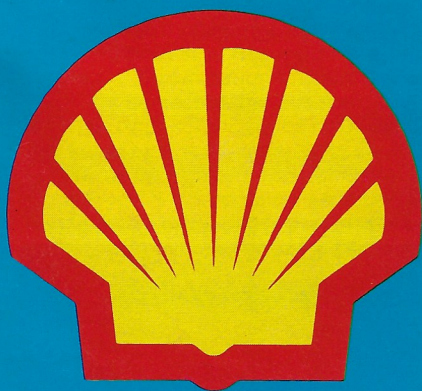
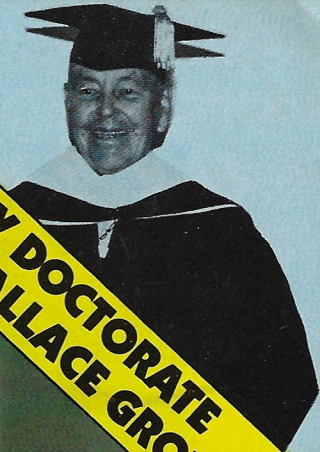


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BAHAMIAN REVIEW

THE NATIONAL MONTHLY NEWS MAGAZINE OF THE BAHAMAS

**HONORARY DOCTORATE
AWARDED TO WALLACE GROVES**



Shell Bahamas Limited

MORE THAN A QUARTER OF A
CENTURY OF INVESTMENT
IN THE BAHAMAS

HONORARY DOCTORATE FOR WALLACE GROVES

An honorary Degree Ceremony for Mr. Wallace Groves, the founder of Freeport, was held on November 28, 1981 at Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Freeport, Grand Bahama.

At the ceremony Mr. Groves was proclaimed a Doctor of Humane Letters "honoris causa," by the President and Board of Directors of Georgetown University.

Mr. Groves, who is an alumnus of Georgetown, already holds four degrees from that university. He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in 1923, a Bachelor of Laws degree in 1923, a Master of Laws degree in 1924 and a Master of Arts in 1925. He was also admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1925.

The ceremony, which was attended by family and friends of Mr. Groves, was opened by Reverend J. Donald Freeze, Provost from Georgetown University, who also read the University Charter.

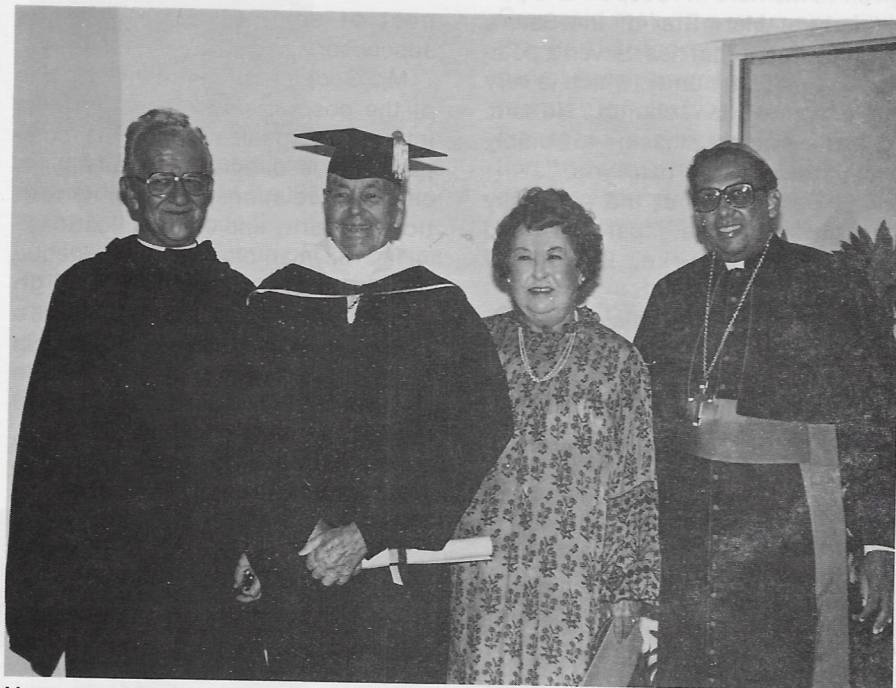
Georgetown University's Alma Mater was beautifully sung by Mary, Star of the Sea Choir and Dr. Marie-Helene Gibney, assistant vice president for Academic Affairs at Georgetown University, read the degree citation.

"The career of any genius is said to be composed of 10% inspiration and 90% perspiration," she read. "The success of Wallace Groves is no exception to this rule. This mild-mannered but strong Georgetown alumnus is characterized by determination, healthy ambition and enormous energy in addition to that native intelligence which is often termed inspiration," said Dr. Gibney.

She said that the university was privileged to honour a man who already held four degrees from Georgetown.

"Wallace Groves earned both the Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Laws degrees in 1923. The following year he completed the Master of Laws and in 1925 earned a Master of Arts Degree. Georgetown is justly proud of her 'four time' alumnus because his achievements following commencement not only match but even surpass his university record."

Dr. Gibney said that upon being ad-



Honorary Doctorate-Wallace Groves seen along with his wife Geirgette and two Catholic priests. Rev. Fr. Brendan Forsyth, pastor of Mary Star of the Sea (left) and Bishop Lawrence Burke (right). Photo: Stanley Toogood

mitted to the Maryland Bar in 1925, Mr. Groves practiced law in Baltimore for six years. During this time he began to work in private banking and in mortgage loans. His determination and hard work were soon rewarded with a move to Wall Street where he became a highly successful financier.

"The story of Wallace Groves reads somewhat like a fairy-tale from this point forward. In the 1940's Mr. Groves travelled to the Grand Bahamas. Initially he bought and operated a lumber mill on the island. Then in 1955, he reached an agreement with the Bahamian government whereby his Grand Bahama Port Authority would provide for the building of a port and the consequent growth of industrial and commercial enterprises. Thus began the creation of Wallace Groves's city of Freeport," she said.

Dr. Gibney said that by 1960 the port was in operation, but industry was still only slowly rising, "So Mr. Groves, who was never satisfied with mediocracy, worked on other ideas. He began to look to tourism and

planned a luxury hotel and casino in order to attract visitors to the island."

Residents of Freeport report that Mr. Groves takes a paternal attitude toward the community he has created. He participates in everything from church bazaars to groundbreaking ceremonies. The same point of loyalty has been exhibited for his alma mater where Mr. Groves had made it a point to visit and to provide much needed support. For his forthright leadership, his interest in intercultural education and his philanthropy, the President and Board of Directors are proud to proclaim him Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*."

At this point Reverend Timothy Healy, president of Georgetown University conferred the Honorary Degree upon Mr. Wallace Groves, who in his acceptance speech said that he was deeply honoured to receive a Doctorate Degree from Georgetown University.

"Anyone would be honoured to receive a Doctorate Degree from a

Continued ▶

GROVES *Continued*

school of the calibre and standard of Georgetown University," Mr. Groves said.

"Georgetown University has achieved the highest standard of universities throughout America. I placed an order that this honour be given to me here in Freeport and particularly at Mary Star of the Sea, a unique church that has carved a position in this community, which is very seldom done by any church," He said. "It is the greatest pleasure to humbly accept this award. Thank-you."

The Benediction at the ceremony was given by The Most Reverend Lawrence A. Burke, Bishop of Nassau.

After the ceremonies a grand banquet was held at the Lucayan Beach Club, which was very well attended by family members, friends and members of the Freeport Community.