

Hotels:

PUTTING THE BEST FOOT FORWARD

If there is one charge that has been levelled against the resorts at Freeport/Lucaya it is that they opened too early in cases and amenities that looked enticing in architects' renderings just were not to be seen when the first guest checked in.

Imperial Bahama, the former Italia which became a more than million-dollar embarrassment to its creditors, is a classic example. Although the Dubbin brothers, Henry and Dan, meant to provide a middle-class man's resort that



This is what the newest addition to Freeport/Lucaya's resort area will look like when it opens this Fall.

King's Inn similarly opened up before the site looked its best and early holidayers, trying to sunbathe while construction workers went about putting in finishing touches, must have

firm which often lets its name out on a franchise basis.

When Holiday Inn-Freeport opens, assure Executive Assistant Innkeeper Chet Layton, the newest addition to Freeport/Lucaya's burgeoning resort area will be looking its best.

And because Holiday Inn doesn't want to commit itself to an opening date that might see it with the equivalent of a woman's hair curlers at the breakfast table, Mr. Layton was reticent to say when its doors would open to admit guest number one.

It will be in the Fall however and the first major event scheduled for its spacious public rooms is the October charter night for the Kiwanis Club of Freeport.

Resident Innkeeper — there are no "managers" at the Inns — is dapper Steve Norton, formerly with Nassau's famed Montagu Beach Hotel and well-known in the capital.



—Roy Newbold, Jr.

Executive Assistant Innkeeper Chet Layton and Resident Innkeeper Steve Norton, with the sweeping expanse of the Holiday Inn behind them. The hotel is seen from the beach side.

would get by, the palm treed golfcourse, landscaping and shopping centre just didn't exist when optimistic tourists arrived for a much-publicized holiday. The floating hotel had many good points right from the start — entertainment, food and service have yet to be matched in Grand Bahama — but Imperial Bahama had almost ended its days when the land-side amenities finally were ready.

been piqued. Today, however, it is very attractive and all that it is said to be.

Making sure that they don't put their corporate foot in their mouth, Holiday Inn says it is not going to make the same mistake with Holiday Inn-Freeport, a more than 500-room hotel, on Lucayan Beach.

Unlike many of the Holiday Inns this one actually belongs to the hotel

'Christmas'

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"This is the only new development of its type in the Commonwealth" he points out proudly.

Though he drives a Port Authority car normally, he does own that symbol of superior English craftsmanship, a Rolls Royce, and he and the only other Rolls Royce owner on the island, an American realtor, have formed a Rolls Royce Club of two.

One of his pet ambitions?

To bring a London taxi to Freeport's streets.

"They're the ideal car," he assures. "They turn on a sixpence."

Married, "young Mr. Hayward" has three children. They are Susan, 16, Richard, 13, and Jonathan, 8.