

## Recreation:

# EN GARDE For Freeporters

The manly art of self-defence, circa The Scarlet Pimpernel, is still the rage today.

But in Freeport when someone tosses down the gauntlet in challenge to another Freeporter they're quite likely to meet at Freeport School auditorium and not beneath the oak tree in some picturesque "Bois".

Instead of seconds they'll have the other members of the Freeport (Bahamas) Fencing Club and Fencing Master, Capt. Rom Tyminski will be on hand.

In fact although it's just as much a battle of wits, strength and reflexes, the duel of today isn't done in quite the same deadly earnest that they used to.

Foils are capped with sword-blunting buttons, face masks are worn and a padded uniform protects the torso.

In Freeport, fencing is one of the sports enjoyed by adults and youngsters alike. In his own way Capt. Tyminski has created an area of friendly competition that gives the teenagers of that city something to do after school.

"It's keen, it's cool, it's groovy," are all likely adjectives to describe the attitude of the younger members, particularly the eighteen girl fencers.



The lunge is demonstrated by fencing master Tyminski. Blonde Barbara Glasspool, 14, and fellow-fencer Melanie Antoni, 12, give their attention. Each girl has been fencing with foils for some two years.

Polish Fighting Forces Champion in 1938 in Epee, Capt. Tyminski started the fencing club in the Fall of 1960 and he's proved a popular coach.

In addition to the girls, whose ages range from 11 to 17, there are ten adult members and three young boys.

They meet every Wednesday evening, from seven until ten, in the school auditorium and arrangements have been made for annual competition with fen-

cers from West Palm Beach, with the prize being a cup donated by Kiwanis.

"We've won it twice so far," says the still fit former Olympic qualifier in Epee.

Foils are the weapons used by the club for intramural competition.

"When we started," recounts Capt. Tyminski, head of the Grand Bahama Port Authority's harbour activities, "all we had were my foil, two epees, two sabres and two masks."

Jack Hayward, of the Grand Bahama Port Authority, and Col. T. Parker of Freeport, gave their support to the club initially and two additional foils and masks were purchased.

One member, Danny Malone, cut sticks for training.

A dance at the Social Club enlisted the support of the public and £72 were raised to purchase equipment from England.

Competition with outside teams is always welcomed by Capt. Tyminski and by his enthusiastic students. The commanding officer of at least one British naval ship has said that he will organize a team to pit against the Freeporters when he returns to the Bahamas from England.



—Roy Newbold, Jr.

With masks at their feet, five pert and intent members of the Freeport (Bahamas) Fencing Club show how it's done.