

FREEPORT

Recreation:

The Doctor Owns a Gun Club

What does a surgeon with a successful New York practice do when he decides to retire?

In the case of Dr. Bill Scharbias, a congenial Cornell graduate and Director of Surgery at Smithtown General Hospital in suburban New York, he moves to Freeport and opens a gun club.

An ardent gunner and sailor who describes Mrs. Scharbias and himself as "an enterprising wife and a tired surgeon", Dr. Scharbias has been coming to the Bahamas in his sailboat for six years and in that time came to know Nassau and Lyford Cay very well.

Five years ago they stopped at Grand Bahama but "never dreamed we'd be living here".

In April of 1964 he paid a return call to Grand Bahama seeing world-renowned Freeport for the first time and decided then that the town needed a gun club and that he would like to open it.

"I was still in active practice," said the casually-attired sportsman relaxing in his tastefully-furnished clubhouse, "But I was interested in establishing some sort of shooting facilities in the Bahamas."

The Freeport/Lucaya Winchester Gun Club, first Winchester-franchised club overseas, opened to the public for the July 4 weekend. Located in the city's Wellfield No. 2 with seventy acres of shooting rights reserved for



—Roy Newbold, Jr.

IN GUNNING ATTIRE, DR. AND MRS. SCHARBIAS SHOW GUESTS THE PROPER FORM

safety, the gun club has two skeet and two trap ranges.

Lights are installed for night shooting and, theoretically, up to twenty people could enjoy the sport simultaneously.

Supervising the gunning is a resident pro well known to the Palm Beach-Pompano Beach set, Jack Tietge. For those newcomers to the sport, Mr. Tietge is available to give lessons.

Skeet-shooting clubs are considered valuable assets to resort operators and in Freeport the general consensus is that

Dr. Scharbias' new operation will be a big drawing card.

Already, tourneys have been arranged for October and December with national or international sponsorship.

Home-made Crossbow: An interesting feature of the decor in the high-ceilinged clubhouse is a crossbow hung over the fireplace.

During the Second World War, when he was a Flight Surgeon in the Navy and posted in the Solomon Islands, Dr. Scharbias decided to make a working model of the medieval weapon as a hobby.

Solomon Island mahogany was used for the stock and an army truck spring serves as the powerful bow. In private practice for the past twenty-five years, Dr. Scharbias recalled a party recently where one of the guests, a high-ranking naval officer, commented that during the war his department had several requests from "some crazy flight surgeon in the Solomons" to temper a truck spring into a bow. Dr. Scharbias says he identified himself to the officer as that surgeon and showed him the crossbow he had been working on.

"It's really a small world," said the new Freeport resident.

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