

# FREEPORT

## The Service Clubs:

### ROTARY PUTS THE ACCENT ON YOUTH

Rotary was the first service club to be formed at Freeport and from the outset it has made a point of providing for the young Freeporters.

Its President is urbane, genial Leo Savola, native of Louisiana and vice president of the Rand-supported Colonial Research Institute.

If there's anyone who has a personal stake in Freeport and therefore is particularly appropriate to head a service club there, it's Mr. Savola who's been living on Grand Bahama since June of 1946 and who lived in the Freeport area long enough to see pine trees growing which now are being bulldozed for road rights-of-way.

His life was one of following the timber industry, first to Florida and then to Grand Bahama when Wallace Groves bought out the Abaco Lumber Company.

He married his wife, Ingrid, a native of the Free City of Danzig, in a Grand Bahama sawmill community some three miles from the present city of Freeport and the only thing he finds remaining



—Roy Newbold, Jr.  
ROTARIAN LEO SAVOLA

of those days is the church in which they exchanged vows.

Their seven-year-old Steven was the third child born within the Freeport area as designed by the Hawksbill Creek Agreement says the Rotarian who also has a four-year-old daughter, Karen.

When Mr. Groves sold out his interests in the lumber company, Mr. Savola went to Marine Construction Company on the office side. That was when the firm was dredging the original harbour. In '58, with the harbour completed, he joined Mr. Groves again, this time in the Grand Bahama Port Authority leaving in January of '62 to head his own company of manufacturers' representatives.

In January of 1964 he joined the research institute.

Sitting at head-table in the Go-Go Room of the Island House as president-elect, Mr. Savola said he joined Rotary early in 1962, the second year of the service club's existence. He pointed out that its main interest has been youth all along and the forty-two dedicated members were responsible for creation of the city's only playing field.

The first fund-raising ball held last year was quite successful and a second one was held a few days ago. Last year's event, held in The Lucayan Beach Hotel, raised over four thousand dollars.

At one recent meeting of Rotary, even more active interest in young people was urged by the speaker, fellow-Rotarian Bob Stickles.

Mr. Stickles pointed out the unselfish work being done by Freeport Scoutmaster Gerry Poitvin of Freeport Construction Company and urged the club members to contribute one night a week to working with the boys, as well as to contributing financially to the Cubs and Scouts program.

He particularly emphasized the opportunity the businessmen have of meeting the Freeport leaders of tomorrow and introducing them to the mechanics of business by helping them earn their badges.

If a community is to be a well-rounded one, and Freeport already is well on its way to that goal, it must provide for the recreation and character development needs of its children.

In Leo Savola and in Rotary, Freeport has the friends who hope to do just that!