

**Jack Hayward:**

## "Christmas Comes Every Six Months"

Seeking information about Grand Bahama Port Authority Vice President Jack Hayward prior to the Bahamian Review's first Freeport visit over a year ago, I was drawn a word-picture by an Englishwoman, a mutual business acquaintance, of a rich man's son, a playboy.

About as far off-base as any description could be, it left me totally unprepared to meet the active, imaginative and decisive business personality which constitutes Mr. Hayward.

True he is the son of a rich man; his father is chairman and managing director of the London-based Firth Cleveland Group with interests in steel, agricultural equipment, and, among other things, the world's largest retail chain of shops in the electrical field.

In Freeport the Hayward family is a principal shareholder in the Grand Bahama Port Authority and its name ranks alongside that of the Groves, just as Jack Hayward's large beach home stands next door to that of the Port Authority head.

A man whose personality and appearance have made him popular choice for the roles of a Scottish Laird and a Major General in productions of the highly-successful Freeport Players Guild, he came to Freeport first in 1956 as the son of a man looking over a potential investment.

The Haywards bought in and, late in 1957, they agreed that Jack should go to Grand Bahama to look after the family interest.

For a young man who must have moved in some of the most interesting and amusing circles of London, setting up residence in what was then virtually barren rock with a score or two of widely-scattered neighbours was quite a change of life.

But today sitting in his corner office at Port Authority headquarters, looking over the downtown commercial centre, he says: "It's been very exciting work on the whole.

"Christmas comes every six months as far as Freeport's concerned. I reckon I'm getting older much faster."

The suite of offices which make up the nerve centre of this new Grand

Bahama city are open officially from eight-forty-five in the morning until six, but one or more of their top-level occupants is in during the pre-work hours from eight through the after-closing hours, often until seven.

And Mr. Hayward helps set the pace.

Out of the office he doesn't feel he's through with his responsibilities. Because of his position he takes an active interest in most, if not all, community projects.

His favourite community interest appears to be the Players Guild.

Along with a hard-working core of amateur theatre supporters—Ray Tower, Don de la Rue, Jack Dredge and latterly Norman Foskett among them—he has seen the quality of production increase to its present high standards and support from the general public is enthu-

with a highly-developed sense of humour of his own.

*THERE'LL ALWAYS BE . . .* A man as concerned as he is about everything from road repaving plans to cultural centres has extensive resources to draw on for worthwhile conversation. But one of the most interesting facets of his personality is Jack Hayward's use of his position to maintain Freeport as a bit of England.

He actively encourages the placing of official portraits of The Queen in all public areas of the city. Whether you are in the foyer of the Lucayan Beach Hotel, the King's Inn, The Pub on The Mall, or on the third floor of the Mercantile Bank Building where Port Authorities head offices are, you see the benign countenance of Her Majesty looking down at you.



—Roy Newbold, Jr.

### THE PORT AUTHORITY'S J. A. HAYWARD ... Looking for a London Taxi

siastic with virtually every performance sold out.

Comedies are the usual fare but "Deep Blue Sea", a drama by Terence Rattigan, ran for four nights recently on the Guild stage at the Bahama Seacraft Building.

Eileen Dredge, "a damn good actress" and "very conscientious" according to Mr. Hayward, directed the Rattigan play.

Some others which have filled the 250 seats for the Guild include "Quiet Weekend", "See How They Run", "Roar Like a Dove", "The Amorous Prune" and the drama "Separate Tables".

There are some one hundred active members of the amateur theatre of which, says their most enthusiastic supporter, two-thirds are very active. They favour pure slapstick because "people like to laugh" says the hard-working Port Authority vice president, a man

The crews of visiting English naval ships rave about the hospitality they receive thanks to Jack and some of his friends, and the Union Jack is conspicuous along with the Bahamian Ensign, snapping smartly in the breeze.

An executive of the Port Authority is commended for wearing his regimental tie—"At least you look English now" — and one of the high points in this aspect of his life must have been the naming of the principal traffic circle Ranfurly Circus.

English names are used for streets whenever possible and it's certain that he's involved in some of the choices. He balks at use of American Dollar price quotations by Bahamian businesses — and that includes all Freeport — when the Sterling rate hasn't preceded them, and he looks forward with relish to the day a member of the Royal Family consents to visit the city.

(Continued on Page 53)



# 'Christmas'

*(Continued from Page 41)*

"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.