

CHALLENGE Note Book (Blue Cover)

Transcription

**GG comments/additions

78° 44' W Longitude

26° 31' N Latitude

Hawksbill Creek ([agreement](#)) an incentive to industry and Commerce

Racial Equality

Average Pay in 1958 was £1 per day – Port Authority booklet

Feb 14, 1956 – Miami Herald announced \$180 Million Ludwig shipyard to employ 10,000 workers.

Super dredge, said to be largest in world at the time was built in Japan and towed to Freeport

U.S. Steel Cement plant announced in November 1956 – but construction did not begin until 1962. Capacity originally 200,000 tons upped to 4,800,000 by time plan opened in 1965.

Haywood Cooper – Kentucky Fried Chicken – once worked at Pine Ridge ([Graham and I have recorded interview – conducted July/August 2014 – to be transcribed](#))

Groves –

Population of Grand Bahama in days of Pine Ridge

Bay Street didn't like raising of wages at Pine Ridge

School at Pine Ridge had high education standards. British were critical of educating blacks.

No road to West End

Used Barge in those days People pulled off shoes and walked beach

Groves was concerned with medical Government wouldn't provide doctor so brought in German doctor refugee from Nazis

Robert Forsythe – came at Groves' invitation

Antoni Brothers Robert had brilliant career at Ford as chief resident – from Trinidad (We have recorded interview August 2014 – to be transcribed on how he came to stay on GB) Amato – third brother from Toronto dental surgeon.

Gulf Oil was company for Bunkering Exclusive supply contract gave large cash flow and led to present refinery

Met Forsythe in connection with Gulf Oil negotiations

Groves
Good medical
Churches
Schools
Recreation

Executives demanded above. Water sports, good education churches, schools – amenities

1 – Cement
2 – U.S. Steel
3 – BORCO

Groves policy was to be completely non-political
Avoid Government + Hawksbill Creek

Hawksbill Creek Agreement – Then would have been no development on Freeport

Government wasn't prepared to take –
Didn't want to take over education or medical
Puerto Rico –
Financial drain

Sands wanted to get government out of all costs (?)

Licensing – mostly things in Hawksbill Creek Act
Harbor – Airport

In history of Bahamas, no venture in Bahamas other than Freeport ever succeeded

Grand Bahama:
The Island that Became a Dream

Grand Bahama
In the Wake of the Lucayans

Grand Bahama – They All Said Never

The Freeport Story

Island Adventure

Nellie Seymour Robinson

Turks Island – Came to Pine Ridge because her mother, Hazel Garland, was recruited to peel bar. Nellie came to Pine Ridge in 1954 – about 18

Five girls in family and one son – Cleo Bain worked for company. Father was not in Pine Ridge, lived in New York – Herbert Seymour

Movies at night. Ice cream parlour. Grand Bahama Club where dances were held on Saturday night. Sometimes go to Eight Mile Rock to doctors, who were cheaper than doctor in Pine Ridge. Sometime would go to West End – seldom – not often. By car. Used to cost a lot by car £2 per head. About 2 cars in Pine Ridge. Dr. Gotlieb had a Jeep – about one or two other cars. Had government road to West End.

Live in Pine Ridge 1954 – 1956 when oldest son was born. Moved from Pine Ridge in 1957 to North Riding Point. Nellie moved with them – stayed in camp – North Riding Point until 1958 when company went back to Abaco

Met husband in Pine Ridge. Samuel Robinson from Turks Island. Husband worked in saw mill. One child in Pine Ridge

If you made any money in those day, you could keep

Iris – works in Harold deGregory's furniture store – Eight Mile Rock

Felix Walkin – in fruit store – near furniture

Lee Peirn (?) – Hawksbill – first house on corner in Hawksbill – sells ice

Nellie – receptionist at Silver Point

Peter Barratt, MCP, RIBA, MCIP – Grad of Harvard MCP degree

Came to Bahamas first to consult by Ministry of Works 1960. First did planning on Cable Beach

Came to Freeport in April 21, 1964. Came Holland Barthowmew (?) and Associates – out of Atlanta. Left a year later. Former Port Authority chief Architect and Planner – 12 years for Port Authority.

Waterway destroyed about 10 sq miles of aquifer

Best part – turned swamp (?) land into valuable land.

Avoid crossroad because of high collection rate as compared to T-junction (???)

Groves – man with encyclopedic knowledge – master of details

Floyd Russell

Lou Chesler – “we are like oil and water”

International Bazaar

Idea came from Mrs. Ludwig at Cocktail Party

Ludwig and Groves Pushed idea

Notes from Peter Barrett

1. Importance of Little Whale Cay to Freeport
2. Encyclopedic knowledge Groves
3. WG the challenge of the deal
4. The handshake – trust
5. Unemotional - such as Pine Ridge R.R.
6. Supportive role of Georgette
7. Freeport – Mecca for the famous and infamous
8. Maelstrom of politics in early days – Necessity to get involved
9. Self-fulfilling prophecy of Hawksbill Creek Agreement
10. Bay Street commercial disinterest
11. Groves recognition of Greater Freeport
12. Jan Porel – Doug Silvera pragmatic planning
13. Landscaping
14. Transportation BAC Viscounts – later MV Freeport
15. Signage control – applied to everyone – even Kemmons Wilson
16. Groves never power hungry
17. Hawksbill Gate
18. Segregation

Joe Walkin (sp?)

Four children in Pine Ridge – daughter Nina was married in Pine Ridge Church – Nina Phillip – now living in Nassau

Worked with pit props – contractor – made good money
Lived at Pine Ridge
Lives in Pinedale now
Five boys – four girls
Came to Pine Ridge in 1952 – originally from South Caicos
Been in Bahamas since 1944, first to Erickson Salt __until 1949 – came back to Bahamas to Pine Ridge in 1951
1952 returned and since been in Bahamas. Went to Abaco with Owens-Illionois
Worked with manager on road construction – logging roads

Mr. Grey Russell was a genius – could figure a ship load of lumber in his head
Grey Russell was from Hope Town, Abaco
Floyd Russell - brother or father – Rose Shipping Center – Lewis Yard – Russell Wholesale and Retail Food Market, Ltd

Owanta & Einar Gottlieb

Came in April 1949 – first landed at Little Whale Cay – stayed a week. It was quiet an awakening to see the -----condition at Pine Ridge.
Met by Grey Russell and Leo Savola at North dock (North Riding Point) and went to Pine Ridge on “pop shot” (????) Drove into Pine Ridge was quiet a change in the culture.

They came from East Germany via Switzerland.

Niven Nutt (sp??) was hated – was so hated that employees tried to ambush him (original doctor??)

Starving babies – malnutrition in the Bahamas – Nutt didn't like blacks. Nutt fired Gottliebs for helping blacks.

High incidence of hypertension.

When Nutt fired things got better.

Doctor saw 60-100 patients each day – not only from lumber camp but all over island. Average one delivery per day. Charged £2 – £10 (\$7.00) sometimes did as many as three deliveries.

Bahamas Pine won't float.

Stayed first in house that was reserved for nurse. Went to Smith Point, Mather Town

High venereal disease

All denominations in church – Catholic – Anglican – Holy Roller – Baptist
Gustas Cash, Lay preacher, [manager of store – Cash's wife was sister of Ditty China \(lived in Coral Gables in her old age\)](#). She and her husband filled orders for the store

[To escape from East Germany](#) – Swam across the Rhine to Switzerland – for one year

Truck ran into wall – many injuries – dead man shot – water – bladder story???

Bryan Hanks, who knew president of Burdines (department store) took Gus Cash to Miami and introduced him to Burdines' president. Said "you live so near to Miami – but you have never been to Miami" – Reply "Well Mr. Smith have you ever been to Pine Ridge"

Freeport Social Events

Their Majesties King Simeon II and Queen Margareta of Bulgaria March 1966
[\(exiled at that time because Bulgaria was under Soviet control\)](#)
Entertained by Wallace Groves at large dinner party – Lucayan Villas Hotel and Marina

First Grand Bahama Grand Prix [Formula VEE Racing Cars](#)– around International Bazaar – December 10 – 17, 1967 [A.J. Foyt was there, Doug Silvera drove a car in the race](#)

Dedication and opening of Ranfurly Circus by The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Ranfurly, K. C. M. G. March 15, 1965 Followed by cocktails at Kings' Inn and followed by dinner at The Pub on the Mall

Dedication and opening of Bahama Cement Company March 15, 1965. Sir Ralph Grey, governor of the Bahamas, Sir Roland Symonette, Premier of the Bahamas, Sir Robert Neville, former Governor of the Bahamas, R.J. E. Jenks, Bahama Cement President, Roger M. Blough, Chairman U.S. Steel Corporation and 300 invited guests from Bahamas and U. S. - \$50 million plant

Sir Ralph Grey, GMCG, KCVO, OBE and Lady Grey – welcome luncheon July 30, 1964

Joan Crawford – Weekend of July 16-18, 1964 (?) Hostess of New York Couture Group's fashion weekend at Lucayan Beach Hotel – 180 fashion editors and writers

Witold Malcuzyński – pianist performance – Holiday Inn – November 19, 1965
Malcuzyński was the last pupil of the great Paderewski, and through him continues the musical style of Liszt and Chopin

A pianist of international acclaim, Malcuzyński was first brought to Freeport in February 1962 by Wallace Groves for a recital before 150 guests in their home

April 22, 1966 – Friday Famous "Friendship 90" Choir from Palm Beach. Made up of students of Palm Beach High School. Performed at Rotary District Conference at Holiday Inn. Friday evening, free concert at Mary Star of the Sea Auditorium Saturday evening and at 11 am service at St. Paul's Methodist Church on Sunday

First bunkering terminal in Western Hemisphere for offshore fueling of ocean going vessels. Freeport Bunkering Co. Ltd was partially completed and in partial operation in January 1959. Designed by Ralph M. Parsons Col, marine engineers of Los Angeles it was built by Marine Construction Co. Ltd of Freeport, an associate of Diamond Construction of Savannah. Tank contract by Chicago Bridge and Iron. Supply contract by Gulf Oil Company

November 30, 1955 – Earl of Ranfurly announced, apparently prematurely, that D. K. Ludwig would build a \$30 million shipyard and chemical plant on Grand Bahama. Ludwig himself denied that he was committed to either project but did confirm that he would dredge Freeport Harbour.

Ludwig was president of National Bulk Carriers Inc. controlling shareholder in American Hawaiian Steamship Co. Earl of Ranfurly announced that he was forming a company to be called Bahama Shipyard Ltd to dredge the harbor in connection with the shipyard. Bahama Chemicals Ltd was to turn out as much 100,000 tons of "lino" annually and export Lime rock
Shipyard £12 million

A license was issued by Port Authority to Bahama Shipyards

Feb 15, 1956

Groves denied that work had started on the shipyard, as reported in Miami Herald. WG said dredge now under construction in Japan and should be completed within the next few months. WG revealed plans for construction to basins large enough to take ships up to 80,000 tons dead weight. Third basin was foreseen. Rumors that Ludwig was also planning a shipyard in the Dominican Republic were also afloat

Active Service Clubs – Rotary, Kiwanas, Lion's, Chamber of Commerce

Volunteer Fire Department

Robert Taylor – Actor

Prince Rainer of Monaco – 1967 Party at Groves' Home (GBPA VP, Martin Dale had worked as ass't to Prince Rainer prior to coming to Freeport)

Hugh Reiss – first manager of airport – daughter Lorraine - was good friends with Gene Groves. She used to fly from Freeport to West End to attend high school every day.

Clifford Knowles plumber – now with Standard Plumbing

Doris Sitek – daughter of Grey Russell has pictures