

LIVINGSTON – “FLIP-IT – STENO BOOK”

Mrs. Groves to tell story of how.....

Western Queen was boat out of Nassau for provisions and mail. Eric Rutherford – captain

General Store – Augustus Cash – ran general store and conducted church services

Nellie Seymour – works(ed) in office at Silver Point. Husband Sam Robinson, who used to cut lumber

Ismay Francis – was cook housekeeper – where manager and visitors ate. Known as “Manager’s House.”

Mr. and Mrs. Groves first stayed in Manager’s House when came to Grand Bahama – for about a year.

Built two houses at harbor – built out of CBS (concrete block) with stucco – about 1950. Some harbor was already there – dredged 12 feet deep to accommodate to load pit props on barges.

Before harbor loaded pit props on North Shore – but trip was too long for barges.

Burns Brick Co – somewhere in Georgia has early films of Freeport.

I looked up company - [BURNS BRICK COMPANY](#) was formed on 1937 in Georgia - 711 10TH ST, MACON GA 31201-3535. It merged with Boral Brick, Inc. I called them and they referred me to Steve West – a long time employee – 706.215.3790 c

Mr. West told me outline of family history. Henry Burns, Sr had two sons, Derry and Henry. Henry Burns went to GA Tech – had a degree in engineering. He had a love of photography. His old photographs hung in the old family offices. He studied how to more efficiently ship brick (up to that time brick was loaded onto box cars and shipped backed in straw. He developed a loading system by which the “cube” packaging system where brick could be loaded onto flat cars. This sounds like a “fit” – that Wallace could have consulted with him regarding how to better load lumber onto flat railroad cars.

Sonny (Alabama) and John (N. Carolina) were sons of Derry Burns. What would have been a grandson (?) – James Derry Burns – is still in Macon, GA. I located him through an Internet search – as a realtor with Caldwell Banker (478.745.3991 O and 478.461.3122-C) I spoke to J. Derry Burns. He has agreed to send an inquiry to his uncle

(?) John Burns (in his 70's) who is the family historian. I have sent inquiry to him at dburns08@cox.net.

Call Bill Kalis – re pix of Freeport

Was no doctor at Freeport when first came to Pine Ridge so brought doctor from Germany – Esnar Gottlieb – wife was Owanta. Now is Marsh Harbor. Have two children born in Pine Ridge. Son, Cay Gottlieb, lawyer ([deceased](#)) studied in England – Frederick, brother, studied in England. Now practice together.

Dr. Clinic in Pine Ridge now site of present Freeport Hospital. Dr. Gottlieb brought a Nurse Hilda (Lishvin?????) from Germany.

Mitchell Hepburn, houseboy for Dr. Gottlieb. Now in business for self – beer business – owner of Le Rendezvous at International Bazaar

Garnet Levarity

Doris Russell – married to Mr. Sietek. Has Pictures

Ingrid Savola – two children born in Pine Ridge. Ms Cashnick was maiden name. Two children delivered by Dr. Gottlieb. ([Ingrid now living in Coral Gables 305.251.9312 with daughter Karen 786.564.1963 cell – MMG will contact](#))

Father Brendan (Bernard)

Ernie Scogg – [early photographer for Freeport News](#)

Alber Leschevin ([Convicted of crime – sent to Devils Island from which he escaped – he was a French/Swiss banker](#))

Came to Grand Bahama in 1951. Manager of Little Whale Cay – came to vacation in Pine Ridge. Many workers from Turks (Island) – no shelter 600 on payroll for pit props, shipped from South Shore. Had shallow draft barges on North Shore to take lumber about 30 miles and transfer to ship bound for (dressed and rough cut) Cuba, Trinidad.

Bahamians came from Cat Island, Andros and other southern islands and Turks & Caicos.

Pit props – undersized part (of tree) left for pit props – less than 10" (diameter) – undersized. Pit props 4-1/2" – 6-1/2"- 9 feet pit pros in various sizes. Top of pit props had to e within 1/2" half inch, various sizes.

Representative here from National Coal Board

Bring felled trees to edge of secondary roads. Peel tree and cut to right length. Most of peeling was done by women.

From road tractors with ????? and taken to special yard.

March 12, Leschevin has been in the Bahamas 40 years.

Ship for pit props came every 3 months – capacity was 1800 fathoms = 3.5 tons
Fathom = $6 \times 6 \times 6 = 216$ cubic feet

Hardest part was to get out of forest what company was paying for

Used large tractor 4 am in the morning leaving Pine Ridge for work sites to east

Work crews paid by the piece. Mill workers paid by day. Pit props paid every day. Stevadors paid right on ship. Company store sold everything from dry good to groceries, hardware only store on island except for West End

Rudy Wildgoose, Winn-Dixie, was manager of Store – General Store. People from 8 Mile Rock – Smith Point used to walk thru bush to get to store.

No labor problems. No trouble getting work out of Bahamians

Rent was 5 pence (?) per week \$1.25 per week
400 houses in Pine Ridge and Andros Town and Cat Island Town and White Town, because leader was named White

Anglican Church – The Groves Community Church – non-denominational
Saturday nite movies in Movie House – liked Cowboy movies

Mrs. Groves – would stay at manager's house. Mrs. Groves finally built house at harbor. Had pick-up truck – Chevy

Mrs. Leschevin – Hilda

Boilers for electricity – all bricked for heat retention. Brick brought from ??????

Leo Savola

From Louisiana – Wilson Cypress – cyprus. Followed lumber to Bahamas. Was just between jobs.

Mr. Hanks former pres of Fla Power and Light

Came to GB in June 1946 Just after Groves bought in March 1941. Boiler explosion of locomotive in January killed 5 people, including one or 2 children

Leo Savola came as accountant, came back later as treasurer

1946 – 49 and 1951 – 1956

Operation was sold in 1956 and May way closing date (?)

Top amount of personnel was 1800

Had 2 bars and the Store

Chef licenses

Movies every nite but Sunday. Used to swap movies with base at Gold Rock Creek – Base where Alan Shepard landed after 1st pre-orbital flight

Bahamians saved a great deal of money. Had own burial societies – meet every Sunday.

Road to West End – 3 hours drive to West End. Port of Entry in 1946. Bought lots of supplies from West End, electrical, etc from old Wenner-Green fish enterprise

(Eckley Hanna, taxi driver Set and Be Damned)

Leo was bachelor –

Augustus Cash, shop manager and lay preacher and marriage officer

Leo was father confessor. Most of problems were marital- man playing around

Paid every two weeks

Paid and one man would come in with two grocery orders

Common 1 (20¢) per hour

Semi-skilled 1/3 25¢

Skilled 1/6 30¢

Foreman £10 per week

Logging Super £10

When wages went up pound dropped to \$2.80 (Sept. 1949)

Rents 4/ - for a single family 80¢

2/ - for a single man 40¢

All logging was on a piece rate basis, including truck driver, tractor operator, timber cutter

Mill hands got a bonus on product

Piece rate was highly successful

Although many workers could not read or write they always knew to the penny how they had coming. Used piles of rocks to count.

Catch dinghy boat on North Shore and catch boat to Nassau.

Beechcraft (airplane) used to land on road

Meet wife in Pine Ridge, Born in Danzig (???) father was with company that did business with National Coal Board. It happened that he came over as an official measurer

Helmuth Koschnick – was German aviator – had world alt ??? record at 1 mile??
Wife – Ingrid – Has 2 children boy and girl, both born in Freeport.

Everything measured in fathom

Everytime ship (pit prop) would come in there would be a party.

German(Hornline out of Bremmar???) chartered ?? would give party. Cocktail party, dousager, etc. soup wine, main meal (stop) Cognac chased with beer. First ship was Greek – later, Scottish, English, Finnish, All chartered through National Coal Board. Once schedule established able to charter 2 years in advance.

Mail – P.O. box in Nassau at City Lumber Yard. Bulk of Lumber sold to City Lumber

Shorts and Narrows – odd sizes of lumber sold to Europe

1960 Board foot to a standard Bd Foot is 12 x 12 x 1

Kostchurst took trip and discovered market. Parquet flooring – increased production by 1 million bd ft per year

Take 75 years for G.B. trees to mature

1904 when agreement was signed with Brooks family of Minneapolis, Abaco, G.B. and Andros

When Groves bought Abaco it did not include rights to Andros in Nassau. What couldn't be sold there, would notify Cuba, Jamaica, Trinidad and boats would come up

Kelly and Maura and J.W. Roberts Senior – partnership in Abaco Lumber

Mill started to build in 1906 – producing in 1908. First ice plant and first electric plant at Wilson City. Mill shut down in 1916 and mill sold for scrap for war effort.

Gray Russell was born in Wilson City

Operations moved from Abaco to Grand Bahama in 1944 and operation was bankrupt in 2 years. Boiler explosion and Jay Roberts would take money

Turks Islanders would work in woods. Had permit to employ 900 Turk Islanders

One voyage had to pay ½ wages for one voyage – took 6 weeks to get here. As normal rule 3 week after they came on the -----sailing by the color of water and clouds

Had to be here 6 months 6 months before could bring wife. Some brought kids

Christmas – for children Fruit apples, oranges, candy and had a Santa Claus.

Bahamians would start serenading bosses – go to own bosses – Xmas morning for 3 or 4 hours – for handout of bottles of rum (Green Seal) then all would go to dance hall and for rest of Xmas and Boxing Day

2nd LCT (Landing Craft Tank) that was placed on market after war – Mr. Groves bought 3rd one and renamed Motor Vessel Pine Trader – between G.B. and Cuba. Come in on high tide and go over to Cuba + for 10 days

Ex-----with a wood chip board
Had shingle mill – mostly sold in