



# Heritage

70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of Radio Broadcasting

**ZNS**  
**RADIO**

May 26<sup>th</sup>  
1936

May 26<sup>th</sup>  
2006

**BAHAMAS**





# THE BROADCASTING CORPORATION OF THE BAHAMAS

## MISSION STATEMENT

To **INFORM**, **EDUCATE** and **ENTERTAIN**, while relentlessly pursuing excellence in all aspects of Broadcasting, and promote freedom of expression for all people of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

To **SAFEGUARD**, **ENRICH** and **STRENGTHEN** the socio-cultural well-being of the nation, and the economic viability of the Corporation.

## VISION

To develop a national broadcasting system by maximizing opportunities by innovative ideas and technology, positively impacting the development process of the nation and the region.

To: Mr. Victor Dick

Kind regards and best wishes

Lois Wattanchell

3/09/06

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## **“HERITAGE - 70 Years of Radio Broadcasting”**

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Of The Bahamas  
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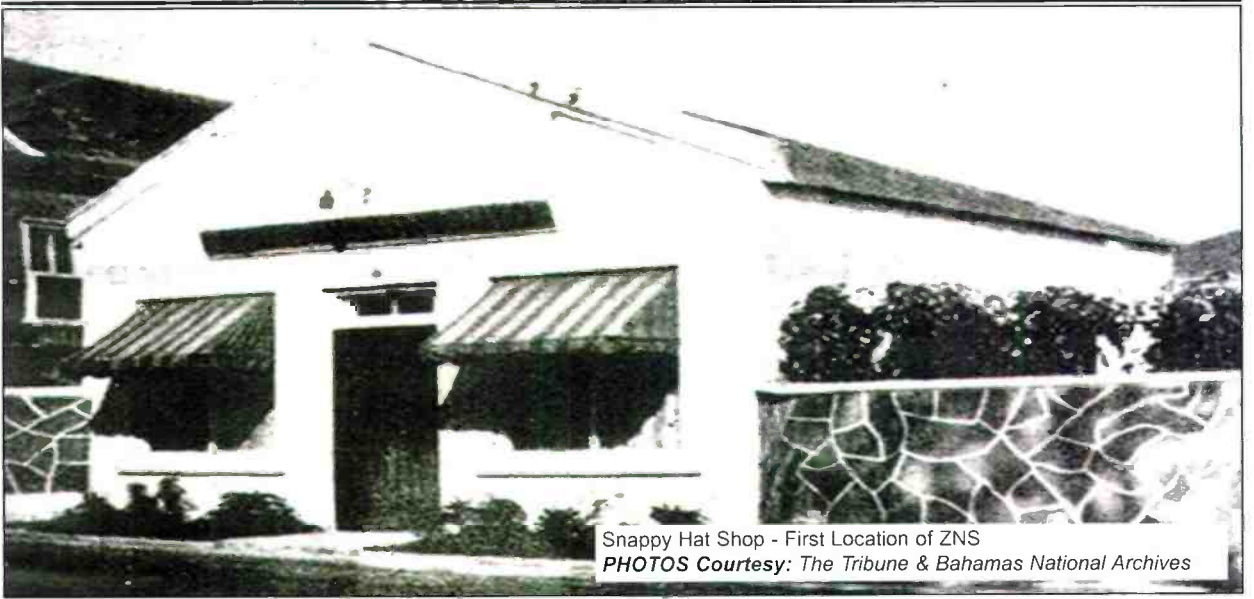
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Snappy Hat Shop - First Location of ZNS  
*PHOTOS Courtesy: The Tribune & Bahamas National Archives*



*PHOTO Courtesy: Mr. Louis W. A. Hanchell*

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# DEDICATION

## TO THE STAFF OF ZNS:

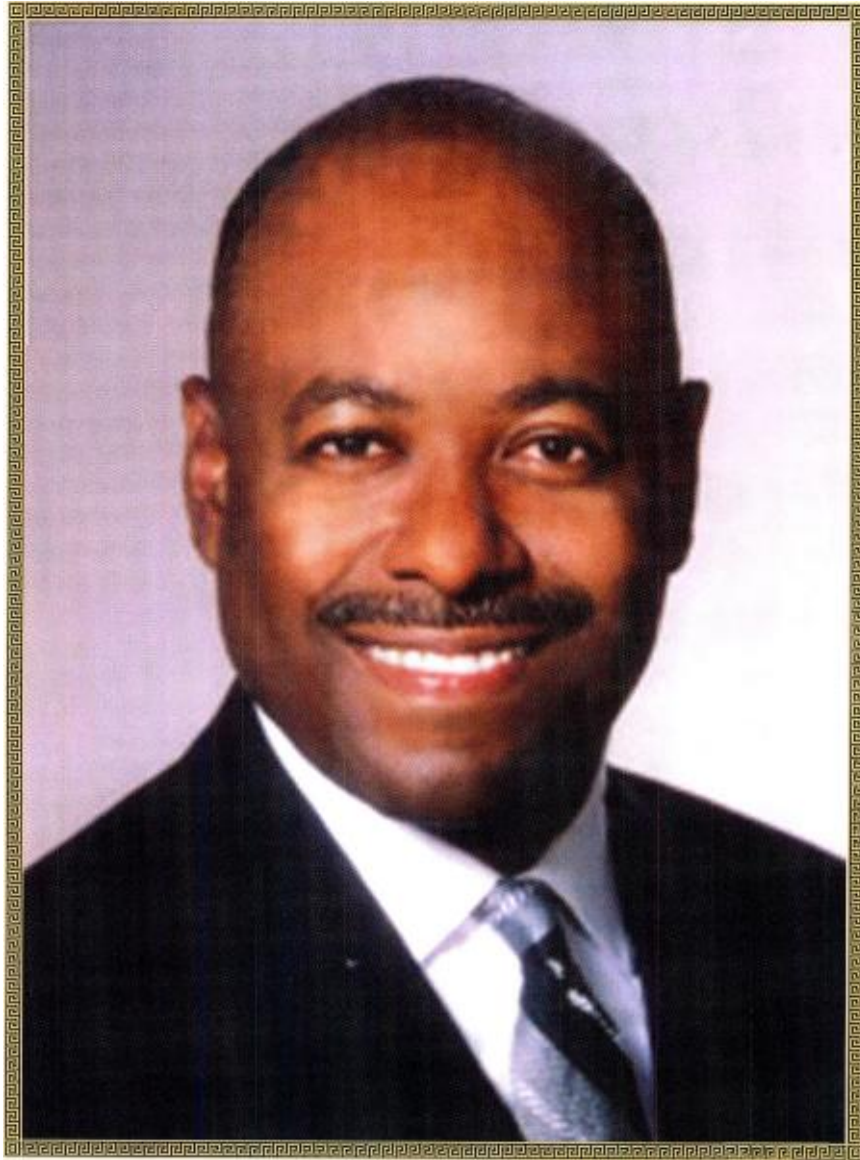
The pioneers who laid its foundation in 1936  
and the hundreds who followed and built on that foundation  
a network of state-of-the-art  
Radio and Television Stations covering The Bahamas.

**“A goodly heritage.”**

A national treasure to preserve for succeeding generations.







**MINISTER OF  
TOURISM & BROADCASTING  
HON. OBEDIAH WILCHCOMBE**

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# FOREWORD

The Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas has given me the honour of writing the foreword for "HERITAGE – 70 Years of Broadcasting-" the book which commemorates seven decades of Radio broadcasting to the Bahamian people, and it is with much pleasure that I do so.

From its inception, ZNS Radio has served this nation well and it has the distinction of being the connecting link which effectively unites our people scattered throughout our chain of beautiful islands into one homogenous whole. It is still true that "Only the sun covers The Bahamas better than Radio Bahamas with its network of radio stations." Hopefully, we may be able to say the same regarding Television Channel-13 in the not too distant future.

ZNS continues, as always, to be the most reliable source for daily News Reports and coverage of all national events. Despite the expansion of the National Communications Systems, the average Bahamian, especially in the Family Islands, tunes in with confidence to ZNS to be informed of matters which may affect them personally. These matters include information on emergency flights, hurricane warnings, shipping reports and those very important community announcements regarding birth and death notices, sickness, special meetings and events, which are all of interest and a vital part of the colourful Bahamian scene.

Additionally, ZNS Radio is frequently called upon to lend assistance to The Bahamas Air and Sea Rescue Association, the Royal Bahamas Police Force, the Royal Bahamas Defence Force, the hospitals, Government Ministries and other institutions which regard it as vital in getting their messages out to the Bahamian public.

For this reason, the Broadcasting Corporation with its network of stations is classified as "an essential service." In fulfillment of its mandate and its commitment to the Bahamian people, it will continue to give exemplary service for many more decades, using the most up-to-date technology and highly trained personnel in its quest for excellence.

Having been employed at ZNS for many years and as a professional Broadcast Journalist with vast knowledge and experience in the broadcasting industry, it is my good fortune to be the Cabinet Minister with responsibility for broadcasting at this time when ZNS is celebrating this significant milestone.

Given the mandate of ZNS to INFORM, EDUCATE and ENTERTAIN, I am conscious of the contribution that the dedicated employees of the Corporation have made and are still making to the development of a truly unique people and in keeping the culture of The Bahamas alive. I want all the staff to know that your work has not gone unnoticed.

The Government and people of The Bahamas thank you and wish each of you continued success in your field of endeavour.

I congratulate the Corporation for publishing 'Heritage – 70 Years of Broadcasting' which gives a very comprehensive account of the history of ZNS and it is with a sense of pride and appreciation that I recommend this fine book to you.



Hon. Obediah Wilchcombe  
Minister of Tourism & Broadcasting

# INTRODUCTION

“Heritage – 70 years of Radio Broadcasting” is published to tell the exciting story of the first Radio Station in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, ZNS. When it was inaugurated in 1936, it also had the distinction of being the first Radio Station to be owned and operated by any Government in what was then known as the British West Indies.

ZNS began without fanfare, as an experiment of the Broadcasting Unit of The Bahamas Telegraph Department. It grew until it eventually evolved into a national institution, the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas, with a network of superb Radio and Television Stations.

Today, ZNS is an essential service and the most reliable source of News, Information and Entertainment in The Bahamas.

ZNS has been good at telling the stories of other people and has been most reluctant to tell its own story. Now, after seven decades of unmatched service to a grateful nation, the story of the growth and development of broadcasting as it relates to ZNS, is being made available in a single volume.

It highlights and pays tribute to the pioneers, as well as to those who followed and stood on their shoulders and contributed immeasurably to the growth and development of ZNS. This Radio station is credited with training the first professional broadcasters in The Bahamas, and this alone is a story worth being written.

To ensure accuracy, much care and precaution were taken. However, since little of the history of the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas has been recorded in-house, one had to rely to a great extent on what is available on the subject of “Broadcasting” and particularly on ZNS, from the files of The Bahamas National Archives and back issues of local newspapers, especially The Nassau Guardian and The Tribune.

Another invaluable source of pertinent information has been articles written by employees of ZNS, who experienced both the joy and the pit-falls of that association, and who gladly shared information from a personal perspective.

Like all story-telling, something of great importance is inevitably omitted or over emphasized. The story of ZNS and Broadcasting in The Bahamas is no exception.

There are a few gray areas at the beginning of the story and one can only wish that more care was taken to write the facts.

It would have been beneficial if some of the oral history could be more easily verified. Sadly, this may never be, since those best qualified to authenticate their stories died before having them written. Consequently, some of the mis-information in public records will remain unclear and confusing. An example of this is the differentiation between the beginning of “Broadcasting” and the formal or official opening of “Nassau’s First Radio Station.” This should be clearly established.

The biographical sketches of the pioneers are informative and so are the fascinating stories written by broadcasters, and other distinguished persons who have been household names for generations.

Additionally, one can view vivid pictures of the men and women “behind the microphone” and the others who support them in effecting quality broadcasting. Pictures of all staff, the backbone of the ZNS Network, are highlighted in the “Picture Section” of this historic book.

“HERITAGE” of course, is the first of many books to be published focusing on the craft of broadcasting in The Bahamas. Because ZNS is an organism and the heritage of the people of The Bahamas, there will be other credible and exciting stories to be written for the benefit and education of the people it is honoured to serve.

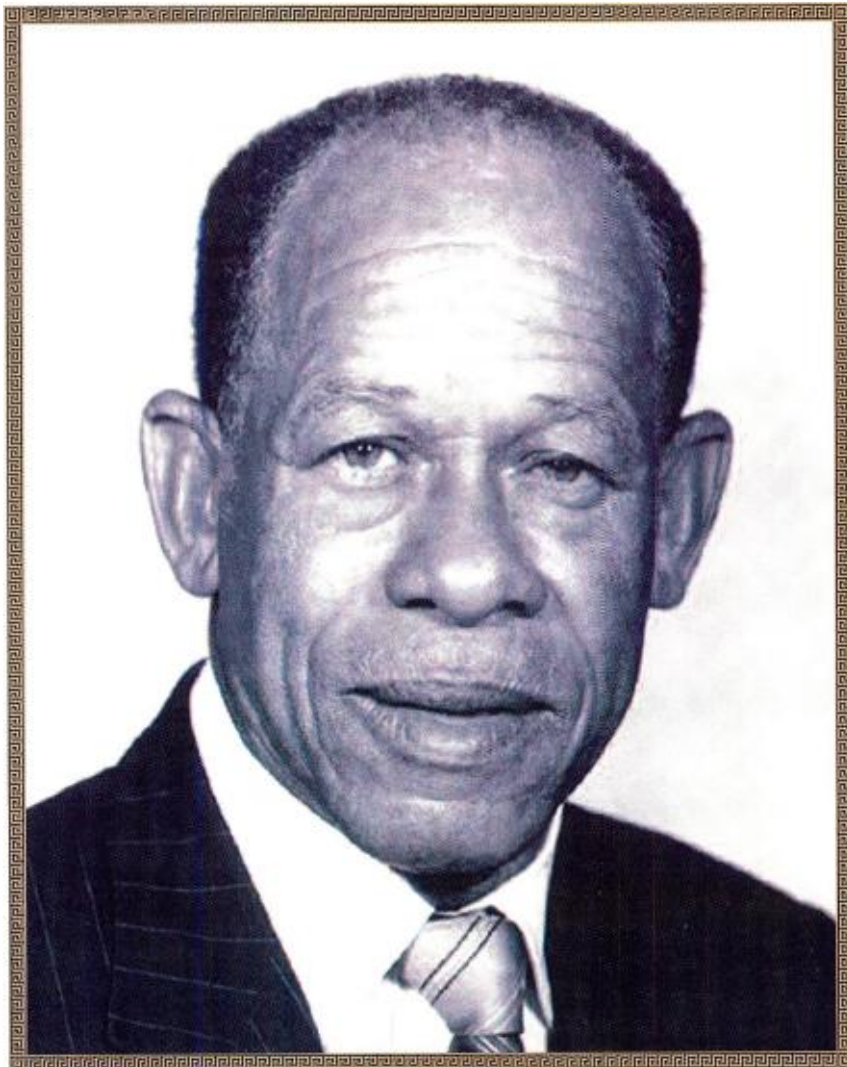
Not only should “HERITAGE – 70 years of Radio Broadcasting,” be in every home, school and library, it should be read and enjoyed as well. Moreover, it should often be used as a reference for factual information regarding the seven decades of service to The Bahamas by the Radio Bahamas Network.



Extension to Original Building -1979  
*PHOTOS Courtesy: ZNS Archives*



Headquarters / Television Building -1977  
*PHOTO Courtesy: Mr. Louis W. A. Hanchell*



**HIS EXCELLENCY**  
**HON. ARTHUR D. HANNA**  
**GOVERNOR GENERAL**



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
THE BAHAMAS.

**Message by His Excellency The Honourable Arthur D. Hanna**

I am delighted to recognize the celebration of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ZNS Radio, and to associate myself with the observance of this important milestone in our Nation's history.

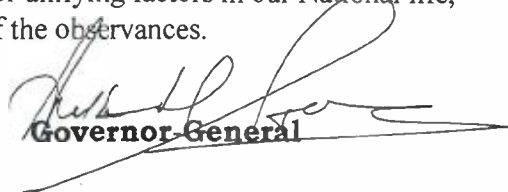
Since 1936, ZNS Radio has played a major role in ensuring the cohesiveness of The Bahamas by keeping our people informed of National and local events. It is noteworthy that, at its inception, the station broadcast its limited programming, which included dissemination of news, utilizing radio frequencies through the then Telecommunication Department. In a Family of Islands scattered across 100,000 square miles of sea, the importance of the service provided is without question.

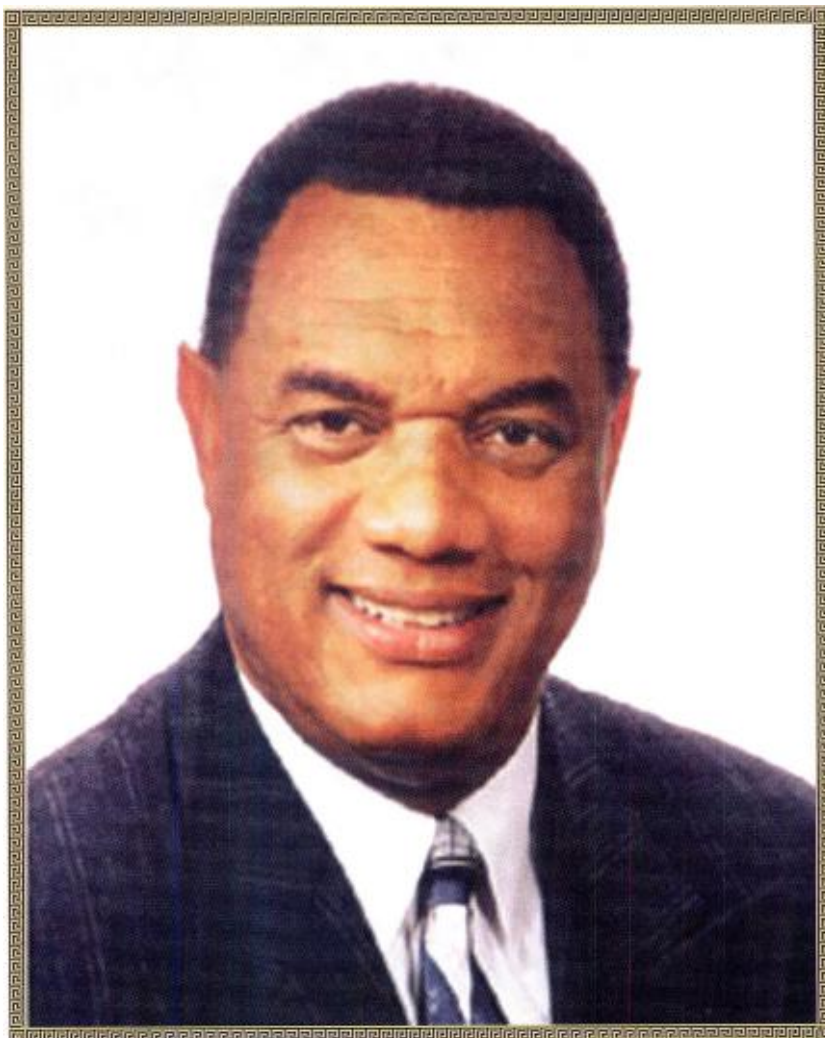
It is important to remember the early days when battery-powered radios had to be installed in the centres of our scattered communities to ensure that all our people benefited from the work of ZNS Radio.

In its early days, many of us can still recall the vital role played by announcers such as Harcourt "Rusty" Bethel, who was referred to as the "Father of Broadcasting" in The Bahamas. There are, however, many more pioneers who made valuable contributions to the success of ZNS Radio, and it is therefore fitting to see that this publication recognize the hard work and dedication of those men and women who worked tirelessly to ensure the effectiveness of our national radio station.

The advent of private radio stations has not diminished the intrinsic importance of ZNS Radio, and most Bahamians continue to look to that medium as the central source of valuable information. Over the years, ZNS Radio has kept pace by utilizing the latest broadcasting technology, and today, these facilities ensure the effectiveness of the station even beyond the boundaries of our Archipelago.

I therefore wish to congratulate the Management and Staff of the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas for their worthy efforts in maintaining ZNS Radio as one of the major unifying factors in our National life, and I extend best wishes for the success of the observances.

  
**Governor-General**



**RT. HON. PERRY G. CHRISTIE**  
**PRIME MINISTER**  
**Commonwealth of The Bahamas**



**MESSAGE FROM THE RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS**

I congratulate ZNS Radio on this wonderful celebration of seventy eventful years of broadcasting in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas. ZNS Radio has achieved tremendous milestones over these years, for which its executives and staff – both former and present – are to be congratulated. The Bahamian people can all be proud of this fine and enduring institution.

The rich heritage and eventful history of ZNS Radio has been a significant part of the history of our developing nation. Our journey as a people has been highlighted by ZNS Radio on many memorable occasions of national significance. These were times when ZNS Radio symbolically brought Bahamians together in thrilling moments of victory and pride or in sad times to share loss and grief.

The news and information of ZNS Radio continues to play a vital role in the everyday lives of thousands of Bahamians across our archipelago from Mayaguana to Abaco and the entertainment broadcast across your airwaves has long been a key ingredient in the continued development of Bahamian musical culture.

Indeed, ZNS Radio has also made important contributions to the nation by serving as a training ground for many of this country's finest sons and daughters.

A look back at the path from the inception of ZNS Radio on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 1936, until now will show consistent dedication to the mandate of informing and entertaining Bahamians. What began in a small hat shop in old-time Nassau has now grown into the shining modern entity that is the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas, boasting 3 AM radio stations, one FM radio station and the national television station.

As the original electronic news and information station in our nation, ZNS Radio has kept its technological pace and performed with pride through changing times. ZNS Radio brings the ring of truth to its slogan '*Only The Sun Covers The Bahamas Better Than Radio Bahamas*'.

On behalf of the Government and people of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, I salute the entire ZNS Radio team and wish you all continued success in the future.

Perry G. Christie  
Prime Minister





THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN  
OF  
THE BROADCASTING  
CORPORATION  
OF THE BAHAMAS  
**DR. CALSEY W. JOHNSON**



## The Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas

Radio Bahamas ZNS-1 1540 AM – ZNS-2 1240 AM  
ZNS-3 810 AM – Power 104.5 FM – ZNS Channel 13

MESSAGE FROM THE  
EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN  
**DR. CALSEY W. JOHNSON**

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate the Management and staff of the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas as we observe this historic milestone.

Seventy (70) years ago the Bahamian people experienced the birth of its first radio station when Radio Bahamas made its on-air debut, May 26, 1936, with its objective being informing and entertaining the Bahamian people in Nassau and the far-flung islands of weather conditions, the movement of mail boats and information in general.

Today, 70 years later, ZNS proudly boasts of its accomplishments as it covers the entire Bahamian archipelago, and is, without doubt, the national voice of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

I am, therefore, more than pleased that I have been affiliated with the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas throughout my life, having contributed to its development, serving as Reporter, Manager, and now Chairman, spanning over thirty (30) years.

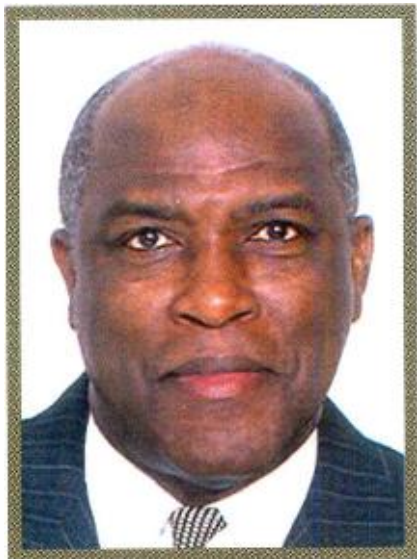
I congratulate the Corporation as radio observes and celebrates seventy (70) years of existence carrying out its mandate – to educate, inform and entertain the Bahamian people.

I trust that this publication will be an inspiration to all who read it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Calsey W. Johnson", is written over a circular stamp or seal.

Dr. Calsey W. Johnson, J. P.  
CHAIRMAN

BROADCASTING CORPORATION OF THE BAHAMAS  
2006



**MESSAGE FROM  
THE GENERAL MANAGER  
THE BROADCASTING  
CORPORATION  
OF THE BAHAMAS**

**MR. ANTHONY FOSTER**

Seventy years ago, when The Bahamas was a colony of Great Britain, Radio Bahamas had its genesis in humble surroundings in the Snappy Hat Shop on Shirley Street between Victoria and Elizabeth Avenues in the city of Nassau.

It was on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 1936, when broadcasting commenced by the Radio Station which was identified by the call letters ZNS (Zephyr Nassau Sunshine), after being accredited and recognized by the American Federal Communications Commission.

History records that the two men who were most instrumental in the planning and establishment of radio communications in the colony were Colonial Secretary, the late Honourable J. H. Jarrett, and Governor of the colony at that time, the late Honourable Sir Bede Clifford. They were the visionaries who helped to shape the policies during the early days of broadcasting on ZNS. The Bahamas and the Broadcasting Corporation are indeed grateful for their farsightedness which helped to bridge the gap of communication between the capital, Nassau, and the out-lying islands of the archipelago.

Radio Bahamas was born out of the necessity to inform residents in the "Out Islands" of hurricane warnings, shipping reports on the arrivals and departures of mailboats, personal messages to relatives and friends on births, deaths, marriages and other community announcements. In short order, ZNS Radio proved to be the vital link between the capital Nassau, and the "family of islands," eventually receiving the designation of "The Voice of The Bahamas." Today, the Community Announcements still hold a place of prominence on ZNS, forming an integral part of the broadcast day of Radio Bahamas.

From earlier times to the present, ZNS was able to develop into a network of stations. Together, these stations continue to play an important role in the life of our nation through a variety of innovative and informative religious and educational programmes and musical entertainment.

From its humble beginnings, ZNS Radio has made great strides over the past seven decades. Two years after its establishment, the station was relocated from the Snappy Hat Shop to the Telecommunications Building on East Street. Over the years, there was gradual improvement in its transmitting power, its broadcast hours and format.

In September, 1959, the station was relocated to its present home atop Centreville Hill.

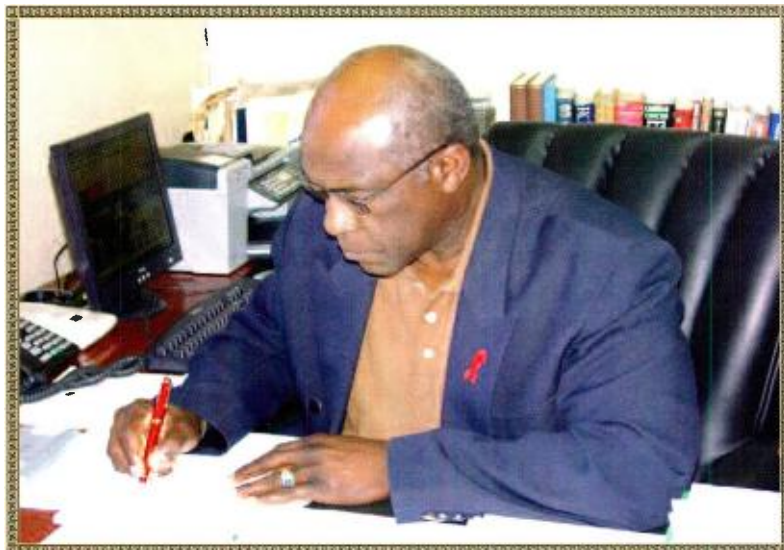
Today, Radio Bahamas is on the cutting edge of technology with fully computerized broadcasting equipment and a transmitting power of 50 Kilowatts, providing coverage throughout The Bahamas under the slogan, "Only the Sun Covers The Bahamas Better Than Radio Bahamas."

Today's Management and Staff of the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas owe a great debt of gratitude to its founding fathers: Governor, Sir Bede Clifford, the Honourable J. H. Jarrett, a former Chairman of the Corporation, the Honourable W. H. Sweeting, and an English youth, Mr. Kenneth Brown, who is recorded as the first employee of ZNS. Gratitude must also be expressed to other persons including Mr. Harcourt "Rusty" Bethel and Mr. Don Pritchard, who were pioneers of broadcasting in The Bahamas. Similarly, gratitude must be further extended to Mr. John F. Dodge, Walter Wisdom, Calsey Johnson, Charles Carter, Ed Bethel and Carl Bethel. This group helped to set the stage for younger broadcasters who are today making an invaluable contribution to the growth and development of Radio Bahamas and the nation.

Therefore, it is my profound pleasure to offer congratulations to the forerunners of radio broadcasting and to management and staff of the Corporation who today are enjoying the fruits of their labour.

It is also my fervent wish that the Corporation will continue to carry out its Vision, Mission and Mandate to, "INFORM, EDUCATE AND ENTERTAIN," while relentlessly pursuing excellence in all aspects of broadcasting.

As Radio Bahamas celebrates its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, may the station continue to grow from strength to strength as the staff continue to elevate the standards of performance over the next seventy years and beyond.

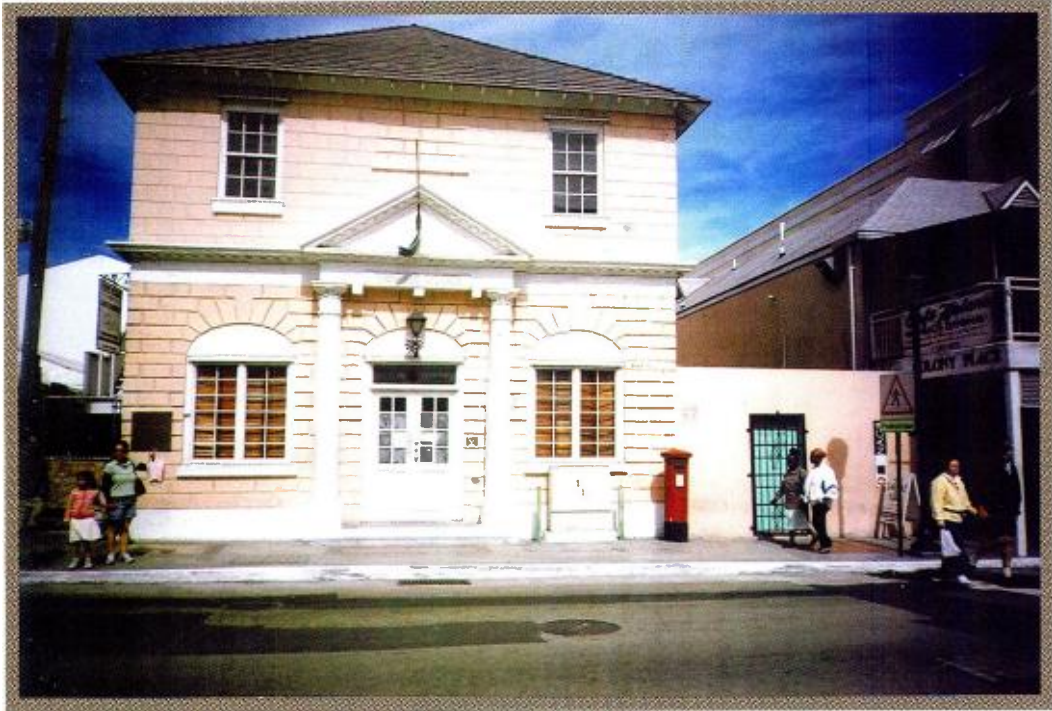


*PHOTO Courtesy: Mr. Derek V. Bain*

# BEGINNINGS

# VENDUE HOUSE

## HOME OF THE DREAMERS - "FOUNDING FATHERS"



"Vendue House," the former Slave Market on Bay Street, opposite George Street in Nassau, was renovated after the abolition of the slave trade in The Bahamas, and turned into offices for the Government.

The Telephone, Telegraph and the Electricity Departments had headquarters there, and for a period of time, shared the same management.

The first Superintendent of the Telephone and Telegraph Department was Mr. Patrick Henry Brown. Mr. Brown, an American, arrived in The Bahamas in 1892, for the establishment of cable communications between Nassau and the United States. Later, he was responsible for the installation of the first Wireless Communications System in The Bahamas, electric lighting and the first ice plant.

Mr. Brown was the father of the late Mrs. Leslie (Helen) Higgs, local authority on "bush medicine" and a newspaper columnist.

It was from this building that experimental broadcast transmissions were frequently conducted by the visionaries, Mr. David Salter and Mr. Lionel Hughes, the founding fathers of organized broadcasting in The Bahamas.

As early as 1931, they used the "government broadcasting apparatus" to broadcast on channel "VP7NF" that was assigned to the Telegraph Department. This channel later evolved into Radio Station ZNS, becoming a part of the heritage of the Bahamian people.

*PHOTO Courtesy: Louis W. A. Hanchell*



**M**essage to His Excellency the Governor from  
The Speaker and Members of the  
Honourable House of Assembly.

To His Excellency Major Charles William James Orr,  
Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael  
and Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and  
over the Bahama Islands, Vice Admiral and Ordinary of the  
same.

May it please Your Excellency:

The House of Assembly beg respectfully to request that  
Your Excellency will be pleased to direct that the Develop-  
ment Board be invited to obtain, during the coming recess,  
all possible information in reference to the establishment  
of a Wireless Broadcasting Station in Nassau, with special  
regard to the initial cost, cost of maintenance, and the  
possibility of obtaining a wave length that will not con-  
flict with the Broadcasting Stations in the United States  
and Canada, and to report the finding at the next Session  
of the Legislature.

By Order of the House,

*Narcour Malcohy*

*Speaker.*

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

NASSAU, 28th April 1927

*Courtesy: The Bahamas National Archives*

BAHAMAS.  
No. 26.

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR TO THE  
SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HONOURABLE HOUSE  
OF ASSEMBLY.

With reference to Message No. 1. of the 8th November, 1927, the Governor has the honour to inform the Honourable House of Assembly that inquiries have been made in England as to the cost of installing a Wireless Broadcasting Station in Nassau, and that it has been ascertained that the cost of a high power station for broadcasting over a radius of 1,000 miles would be about £26,720, and that for a smaller station with a range of 500 miles the approximate cost would be £10,850.

C. W. J. ORR,  
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

Government House,  
Nassau, 12th January, 1928.



We celebrate the beginning of broadcasting in The Bahamas and in particular, we mark the inauguration of the broadcasting system which has always been owned and operated by the Government of The Bahamas.

The early history of broadcasting and of Radio Bahamas is integrated in the success story of the Telegraph Department, the communication giant we now know as The Bahamas Telecommunications Company, B.T.C.

Telephones were introduced to The Bahamas in 1879 – one for the Governor and the other for the office of the Colonial Secretary. This laid the foundation for the Telegraph Department. Thirteen (13) years later, “The Bahamas Cable and Telegraph Act” was passed by the Legislature to facilitate a submarine cable line between New Providence and Florida. It was activated on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1892 and is regarded as the beginning of the telecommunications system in The Bahamas.

With the passage of “The Telephone Act” in 1906, the first manual exchange was installed to provide service to a total of sixty (60) subscribers. With the increased demand for communication with persons abroad, and a growing tourist industry, a Wireless Telegraph System between The Bahamas and Florida was installed in 1913 and is hailed as one of the milestones in the development of the communications system.

The Telegraph Department continued to grow and advance and one of its major achievements was in 1932, when the first radio telephone was installed with lines in Florida which allowed voice communication with countries outside The Bahamas, and paved the way for broadcasting.

By this time, Radio Ham Operators were already establishing wireless stations on the major islands, especially in Eleuthera, and successfully contacting other operators outside the colony. This was soon viewed by some as an ideal medium to promote The Bahamas as “The Isles Of June” – an exciting tourist destination.

# PIONEERS



## SIR BEDE CLIFFORD

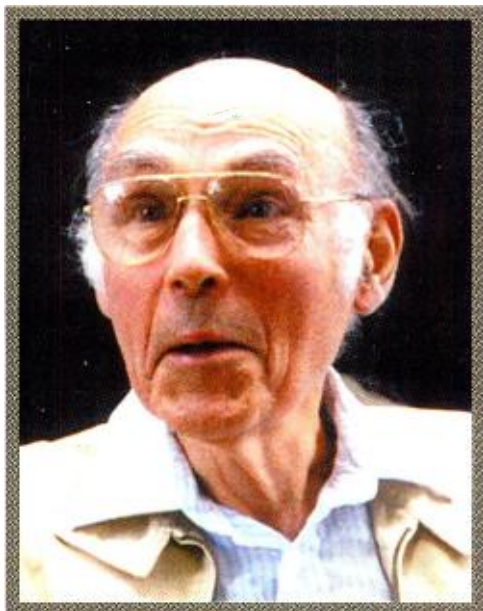
When radio broadcasting became a reality, Sir Bede Clifford was the Royal Governor of The Bahamas. It is said that the establishment of a Government-owned radio facility was his brain-child.

He is recorded as saying, "At the present time there are a few people in the Out Islands with battery sets, and if it's possible to receive the broadcasts from Nassau it is more likely that this will stimulate interest in broadcasting and thus bring the Out Islands nearer, not only to Nassau, but to the world. Regular daily contact with Nassau and the home country (and at other times with other parts of the Empire) and the repeated projection on the mind of listeners on the Out Islands of British ideas, the value of hygiene and the importance of agriculture, must exert a great influence."

Captain, the Honourable Sir Bede Clifford, arrived in The Bahamas on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 1932. Upon his arrival at Government House, he was greeted by one who later became the Prime Minister of Britain, Sir Winston Churchill.

Sir Bede Clifford had a number of influential friends in the Performing Arts and Broadcasting. They included, the head of the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) of the United States, Mr. William Paley, who not only gave advice on the establishment of ZNS, but made it possible for the Governor to make a network broadcast from Nassau to the United States involving more than one hundred (100) stations.

He is credited with creating the Promotion Board (now the Ministry of Tourism) and Clifford Park, which bears his name.



## KENNETH P. BROWN

At age 17, Kenneth Patrick Brown, became the first permanent employee of ZNS, when he was appointed the Secretary of Broadcasting (Manager) and Chief Announcer in January, 1938.

He was assisted in operating the infant station by a team of volunteers from the local community and later they were augmented by members of the British Forces serving Nassau during World War II.

As he was the person behind the microphone for most of the limited broadcasting hours, he was known as "The voice of ZNS." He remained with ZNS until 1945, when he resigned to take up a position with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. At that time, it was said that, "Because of his varied talents, he was able to cover a wide field of radio productions, including the presentation of plays and other dramatic shows, special features and anniversary programmes. His running commentaries, interviews and character parts in plays were particularly good, so that he succeeded in establishing himself firmly in Bahamian life and became a character of the air."

(The Nassau Tribune 1<sup>st</sup> November, 1945)

He was employed as a Radio producer in Montreal, Canada, preparing programmes directed on short wave to the Caribbean until 1954. Following this, he became the first Television News Reporter in Ottawa. For eighteen months, he served the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as Assistant Manager of National Television News in Toronto.

From 1957 until 1960, "K.P. Brown" headed the CBC Television News Bureau in London, England. Returning to Canada in 1960, he headed the Ottawa Newsroom for fifteen (15) years.

His final seven years of employment were spent in the Human Resources Department at the head office of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. He retired in 1982. Mr. Brown resides with his wife, the former Hope Stewart, in Victoria, British Columbia. They are the proud parents of four children and they have eight grand-children.



## **MR. KENNETH R. INGRAHAM**

A native of Harbour Island, Mr. Kenneth R. Ingraham, was the engineer responsible for ZNS Radio when the station began its operation in 1936. He was certain and confirmed in an historic document dated July 6<sup>th</sup>, 1948, to the then Colonial Secretary, the Honourable F.A. Evans, that 1936 was the year when ZNS began its operation.

He wrote, "Possibly a recapitulation of the activities of ZNS since its inception in 1936 might be helpful at this time and I trust that what follows will not prove too boring.

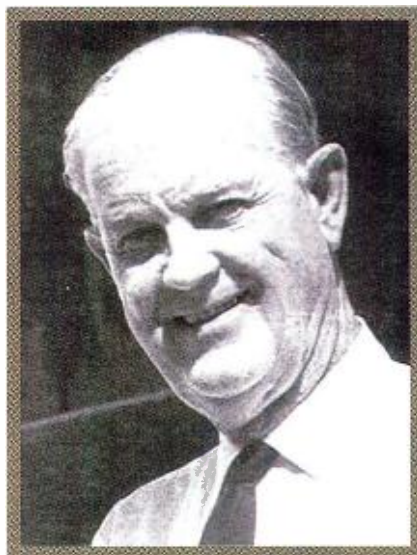
We started broadcasting in a very humble way in 1936 with a transmitter power of 1/4KW. The studio was situated in a little building on Shirley Street, not far from Elizabeth Avenue. We were on the air two hours each day, and 90% of the programmes were of the canned variety. His Excellency, Sir Bede Clifford was very interested in Broadcasting. A committee under the chairmanship of the Honourable J.E. Jarret (then Colonial Secretary) was appointed. I was a member of the Telecommunications staff at that time and had worked on the engineering side and served as technical advisor to the committee. Knowledge of broadcasting technique was very limited, as no one here had any previous experience in this field."

In December 1937, Mr. Ingraham was sent to England on a six-month training course at the British Post Office where he gained additional knowledge and training. He returned to The Bahamas in May, 1938 and began an extensive recruitment and training programme. During his administration, ZNS became a separate commercial entity.

Mr. Ingraham was also a member of the Board of ZNS during the chairmanship of the Honourable W.H. Sweeting.

Kenneth R. Ingraham, the first technician of ZNS, achieved much. He became the first Bahamian Director (General Manager) of the Telecommunications Department – now The Bahamas Telecommunications Company (BTC). He retired in 1960.

*PHOTO Courtesy: Yvonne Knowles*



*TRIBUNE PHOTO Courtesy: The Bahamas National Archives*

## **HARCOURT RODNEY (RUSTY) BETHEL**

Harcourt Rodney (Rusty) Bethel was born on May 29<sup>th</sup>, 1913, at Cherokee Sound, Abaco. The only child of Alfred and Ada Bethel, his family migrated to Miami, Florida, when he was five years old, where he attended the Miami Grammar School.

When he returned to The Bahamas in June, 1924, he continued his studies at the Victoria School on East Bay Street in Nassau.

At age 14, he was hired as a clerk at the Royal Bank of Canada. Later, he became a wireless operator on the Motor Vessel "Belize" and the Motor Vessel "Monarch of Nassau," which sailed between Nassau, Cuba and Jacksonville, Florida.

His distinguished career in broadcasting began on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 1938, when he was hired by the Telegraph Department as an Accounts Clerk. In 1943, he was transferred to the Radio Division and given the title "Secretary of Out Island Broadcasting." For the next four years, "Rusty" would travel throughout the islands installing and maintaining community radio receivers to ensure that the essential radio service was heard throughout The Bahamas.

Community Radio – a central radio receiver, powered by a huge battery, or using wind charges to supply energy, would be placed in a strategic location, such as a school room or church hall where residents would gather for group listening.

When the staff complement was exactly three persons, he frequently combined the duty of Announcer, Programme Director and Secretary of Out Island Broadcasting. He succeeded in making ZNS the people's radio station, especially in the Out Islands where people relied almost exclusively on it for News, Messages and Entertainment. His weekly request programme "Calling The Out Islands" was extremely popular.

A pioneer in the field of broadcasting, he became the station's General Manager in 1949. During his tenure, the station was separated from the Telegraph Department and experienced rapid growth and development. Other major achievements include the following: An increase in power and

broadcast hours, the recruitment and training of Bahamian personnel, the construction of new facilities—relocating ZNS to Third Terrace, Centreville, the creation of ZNS -2, and financial independence.

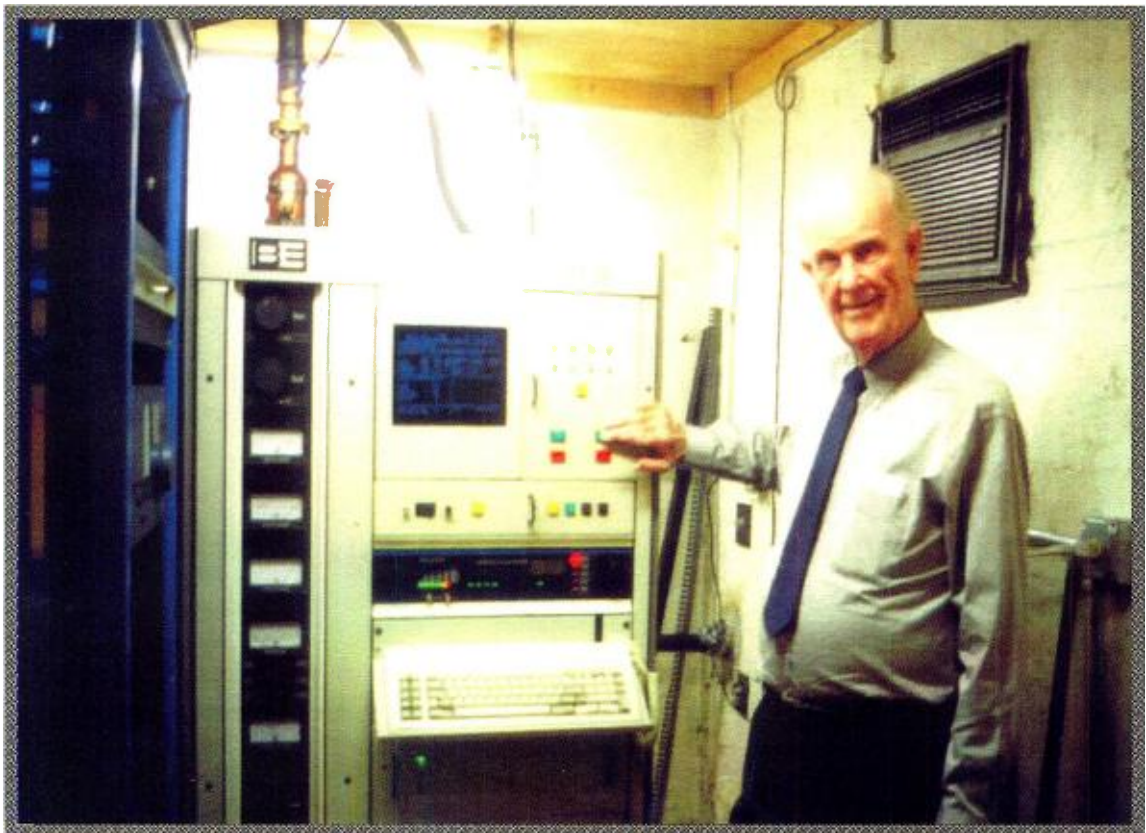
“Rusty” Bethel was also known as “Mr. O.K.” because he popularized a commercial with the slogan, “If it’s O.K. flour, It’s O.K.” Best of all he is known and honoured as “The Father of Broadcasting” in The Bahamas.

He retired from the Broadcasting Corporation on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 1970.

In 1971, he received the first annual award in the field of Government from The Bahamas Chamber of Commerce. During celebrations marking the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Bahamian Independence in 1998, he was honoured by The Bahamas Press Club and also by the Government and people of The Bahamas.

A family man, he was devoted to his beloved wife, Kathleen, and his children, Mrs. Sheila Ashton and Mr. Randolph Bethel (deceased).

He died on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2002 at the age of 88.



**PHOTO Courtesy:** Sheila Ashton



## **MR. DONALD PRITCHARD**

Donald Pritchard was the first Bahamian to be hired as an Announcer on ZNS. He was discovered by Mr. Harcourt "Rusty" Bethel while working at Cole-Thompson Pharmacy on Bay Street. Mr. Bethel successfully persuaded Mr. Pritchard to join him at ZNS.

Not only did he speak well, which was a prerequisite for the job, but he also possessed a beautiful rich singing voice. He was a soloist with "The Four Clubmen," a singing group which regularly performed on ZNS.

He had a passion for the sea and sailing. Being an experienced and expert seaman, he was a member of the Gold Medal Winning team which represented The Bahamas in the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokoyo, Japan. Captain Durward Knowles was the Skipper.

Referred to as "The Dean of Bahamian Announcers" by "Rusty" Bethel, Don was a dedicated and professional employee. A model announcer, he contributed greatly to the development of Broadcasting in The Bahamas.





## **MR. FRANCIS (KIM) JACKSON**

Francis Jackson, an Englishman, was employed as "Supervisor of Traffic" in December, 1951, shortly after ZNS became a fully commercial broadcasting unit of the Telecommunications Department.

Being trained in Sales and Marketing, he laid the foundation of the Sales/Traffic Department. With a staff complement of just three other persons, two clerks and one salesman who also wrote scripts for commercials, the Sales Department was able to make ZNS self-supporting.

Mr. Jackson was appointed Deputy General Manager on January, 17<sup>th</sup>, 1953 and assumed additional responsibilities including programming. His knowledge of classical music and his ability to perform as an amateur actor proved beneficial. He often performed live on ZNS in an hilarious role and was involved in many local theatrical productions.

He resigned in 1959 and left The Bahamas to fill a similar position at a Radio Station in Liberia, West Africa. However, illness forced him to return to his native home in Liverpool, England.

By 1962, he had fully recovered and returned to The Bahamas and to ZNS. He was reinstated as Deputy General Manager. This time, he concentrated on staff training.

Mr. Jackson loved the beautiful waters of The Bahamas and sailing in his little boat. He and three Bahamian companions were involved in a fatal incident at sea on a pleasure trip from Nassau to Eleuthera on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 1963.

Francis (Kim) Jackson, a major contributor to the growth and development of Radio Bahamas ZNS, is honoured and remembered by those whom he trained.

# DEVELOPMENT

# FIRST BOARD

The first Advisory Committee to be responsible for the formal opening and subsequent operation of The Bahamas Broadcasting Station was announced in a release from the office of the Colonial Secretary and published on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 1937.

His Excellency, the Administrator, the Hon. J. H. Jarrett, was chairman. Other members of the board were the Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Cruickshank, Mr. Godfrey Higgs, Mrs. Hugh de Glanville and Mr. Basil Bumside.

It was further announced that "The only paid staff would be Mrs. George V. Higgs (Veronica) who as secretary, will attend to the detail work of arranging programmes and the technicians, Mr. L.J. Hughes and Mr. K.R. Ingraham, will do the work outside their regular hours at the Telegraph Department."

The Superintendent of the Telegraph Department, Mr. David Salter, who managed the operation continued as a consultant.

An Advisory Committee remained in place until January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1957, when it was replaced by a Board of Directors. During this period, The Bahamas Broadcasting and Television Commission was established. The first Chairman of the Commission was Sir Oswald Bancroft, then Chief Justice of The Bahamas. He was succeeded by attorney Harry B. Sands and the Hon. William H. Sweeting within the same year.

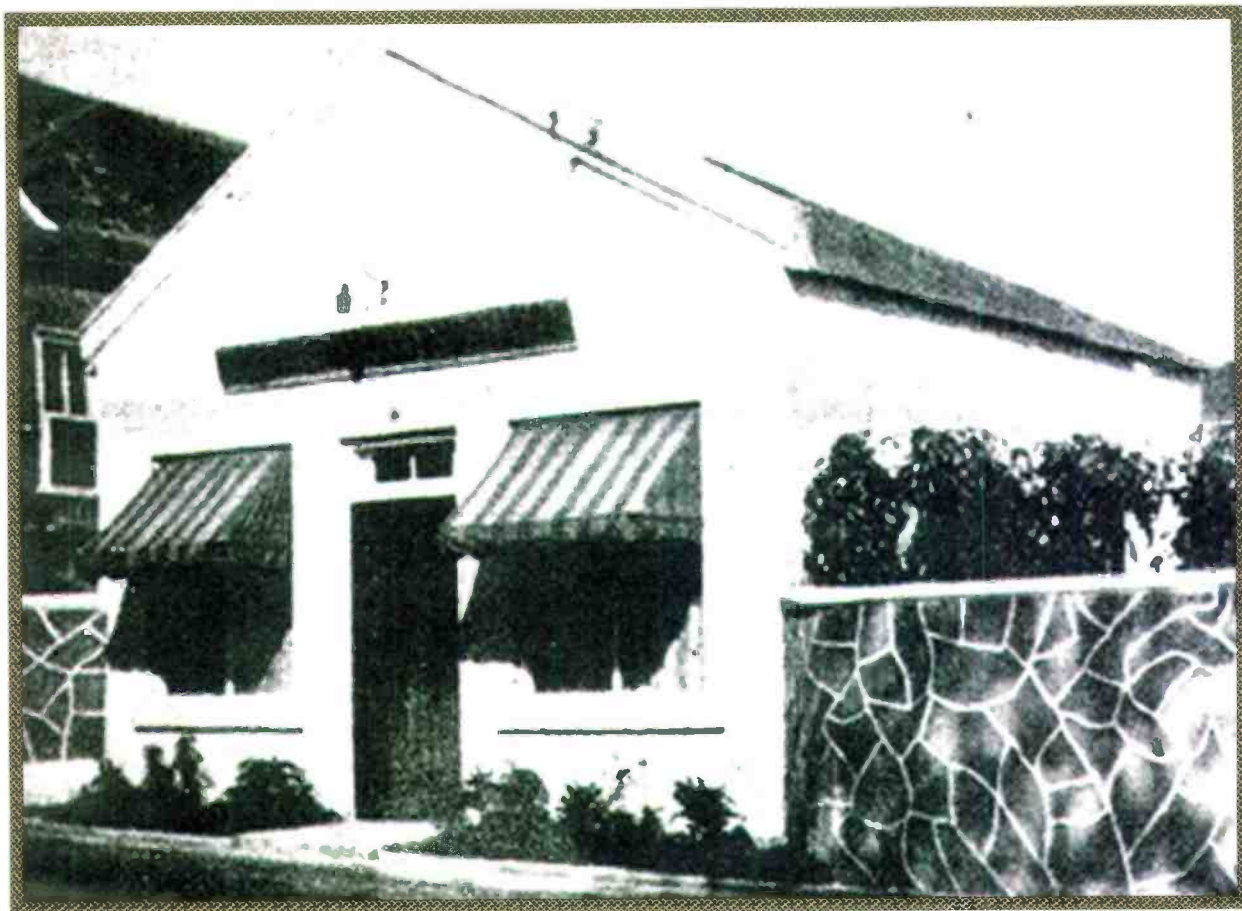
# FIRST HOME

Contrary to popular belief, ZNS Radio station was never located on the corner of East and Shirley Streets. However, it had its beginning in the building owned by Mr. Hilland Blake Key on Shirley Street near Union Street (renamed Elizabeth Avenue). The law firm of Graham Thompson now occupies the site where "The Snappy Hat Shop" was situated before it was moved to a larger building.

The small nondescript building which housed ZNS had two rooms. The Control Room was located at the front of the building. The studio, which was located at the rear of the building, was made sound proof by a layer of cellotex over a mass of sponge clipping covering the walls and ceiling.

The equipment was basic: four microphones and four recorders. Staff proudly boasted that "One of the recorders could produce a 16 inch record which could play up to 15 minutes."

As the Telegraph Department was responsible for broadcasting, Mr. L.J. Hughes of that department performed the role of announcer, while Mr. K.R. Ingraham was the technician and operator.

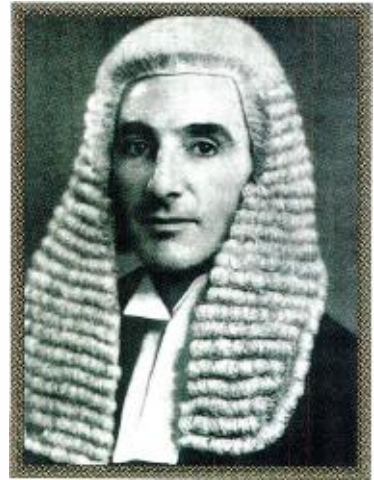


*PHOTO Courtesy: The Tribune*

## OFFICIAL OPENING

Highlighting the formal opening of The Bahamas Radio Station on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 1937, the eve of the Coronation of His Excellent Majesty, King George VI and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, was the address of His Excellency the Administrator, the Honourable J.H. Jarrett, Chairman of the Advisory Committee.

He said, "Today, I have the privilege of formally opening the Bahamas Broadcasting Station. It also affords me an opportunity of extending a very warm greeting on behalf of this Government to all listeners wherever they may be. I believe I am correct in saying that this colony is the first of the British West Indies colonies to establish a Government Broadcasting Station and we take pride in the fact that today we are putting on the air the first broadcast programme that has ever been released in Nassau.



In all modesty we shall take our stand alongside the great broadcasting organizations of our American cousins across the sea. Although this colony is a very small unit of the British Empire, it claims to be very representative of the ideals of the British people, and I hope that the warmth of the greeting which I extend to the Columbia Broadcasting System and the National Broadcasting Company of America, and through them to all their listeners, will compensate for the smallness of the Colony on whose behalf it is entered.

The two great English speaking races have never had greater need of each other's friendship. We recognize a bond of deep significance in the common ideals which our people cherish. First among these ideals, Americans value and we value our freedom and peace, and it now falls to both nations alike to see how these ideals can be applied for the good and peace of the whole world.

To the people of the Out Islands, it is hoped that this station will be the means by which they will be brought nearer not only to Nassau, but to the whole world. Regular daily contact with Nassau and the home country, and at times with other parts of the Empire and the repeated projection on the minds of listeners in the Out Islands of British ideals, the value of hygiene and the importance of agriculture should exert a great influence and prove a real educational value.

We are on the eve of pageantry and a celebration which will display to the world all that the Coronation and the Throne means to the peoples of the Empire. For fifteen centuries there have been Kings in Britain and for more than three hundred years there has been a single Kingship and we in The Bahamas, on the occasion of the Coronation of His Majesty King George VI, are privileged to participate in the continuity and preservation of this Kingship. Within a few hours there will be enacted in the capital of the Empire a most solemn and profound ceremony, a ceremony which has its origin in the early days of English history, and at which succeeding kings have dedicated themselves to their peoples. At this time His Majesty's loyal subjects in The Bahamas should be mindful of the duty and sacred trust which is theirs to fulfill and that trust and responsibility lie to our Empire. When we refer to Empire we mean something more than the practical advantages of a common citizenship and common defence or opportunities to promote trade. It is a belief and faith in something that can be done to lift up the whole standard of mankind on this planet. We have a faith and belief in these free institutions and customs, which were developed originally in Great Britain but which during the passage of years, have spread throughout the Empire a faith which has survived the passage of time."

Concluding, His Excellency read the loyal address sent to Their Majesties by the Legislature on behalf of the people of The Bahamas.



Mr. Jarret, who was the Colonial Secretary, was acting as Administrator at this time during the absence of His Excellency, Sir Bede Clifford, who was in London representing The Bahamas at the Coronation.

**PHOTOS Courtesy:** *The Bahamas National Archives*



Not only did The Bahamas Radio Station, ZNS, have a number of radio frequencies in its early years of operation, it had several locations as well. The Lease Agreement with Mr. H. Blake Key was terminated by the Government with effect from June 28<sup>th</sup>, 1938, when the station vacated the “Snappy Hat Shop” building and moved into the newly erected Telecommunications Building on East Street North. (That building now houses the Central Division of the Royal Bahamas Police Force). It was on this date that the restructuring of ZNS began in earnest and the station started to function as a separate and distinct unit within the Telecommunications Department. That date, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 1938, has significance for another reason. Mr. H.R. “Rusty” Bethel was hired as an accounts clerk in the Telecommunications Department.

Exactly seven months after broadcasting from this East Street location and nearly three years after broadcasting became a reality, ZNS was still being referred to as the “new radio station.”

A front page story in the Nassau Guardian on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 1939, is headlined: “Opening of Broadcasting Station.” It continues, “The new Bahamas Broadcasting Station in the recently erected Telecommunications Building was opened last night.

Another significant milestone was the formal opening of the new studio of ZNS on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 1939. A number of officials and members of the Bahamian community were invited to attend this inaugural ceremony. They included the President of the Columbia Broadcasting System, CBS, Mr. William Paley, who was advisor to the Broadcasting Committee and offered assistance in obtaining programmes. The Governor, His Excellency Sir Charles Dundas, made the following address which was broadcast live and published in the press: “After several amateur attempts to institute local broadcasting for The Bahamas, a Government-owned station was established in May, 1937. A small dwelling house was rented for the purpose and equipped with an experimental set, which with a few improvements, has been used until now.

This served us well up to a point, but could not satisfy the public while elsewhere such remarkable strides have been made in broadcasting techniques. Moreover, the use of radio sets has increased considerably, so that we have a large and scattered audience in the colony. When, therefore new telephone and the telegraph offices were constructed, the opportunity was taken to include therein an up-to-date studio and broadcasting station with modern equipment. It is this station which I am about to open and from which I am now speaking.

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The occasion is opportune for me to thank on behalf of all listeners the committee which organizes our broadcast service, especially the Chairman, Mr. Jarrett, the Colonial Secretary, the Director and staff of the Telecommunications Department, who have made the installation and are constantly attending it, and your regular broadcaster, Mr. Brown, whose clear speech you hear nightly. Others, including Mrs. Jarrett, your Chairman's wife, have frequently collaborated in giving a special programme, as they will once more this evening.

Our most sincere thanks are due to the Tropical Radio Company, who has supplied us with a new transmitter capable of a thousand watts output, whereby our broadcasts will be clearly audible over a much wider area than heretofore.

All this has been done to give more efficient service so far as equipment can furnish it. There remains the problem of providing matters of sufficient interest and diversity to broadcast. It is here that the public can help and I hope that they will come to regard this as a community treat to be furnished in a large manner by the community. I have no doubt that there is sufficient latent talent available, and it is my hope that our broadcast service may be the means of stimulating and bringing to light much hitherto hidden talent.

I am confident that with such cooperation, this new station will be a source of pleasure to the general public. Especially do I wish this for the people of the Out Islands, that it may be a benefit to them, keeping them in touch with events in the outside world and lightening the days in such places in which the daily round may otherwise be a little monotonous. I recall that many years ago, when I lived in remote places in the heart of Africa, I used to think how just such a diversion once in a while would gladden one's existence and help to keep one in contact with the great world, and I am therefore, well able to appreciate the value of this service to those living in isolated places on some of our Out Islands.

But I do not forget that when it was first thought of instituting broadcasting in this colony, it was a sterner use that we had in mind, namely, forewarning of that recurring danger, the hurricane, against which early intimation and preparation alone give hope of security. The more efficient and therefore reliable and of widest range that service is, the more it will do to avert misfortune on land and sea.

So, I regard this improved service as highly valuable for public enjoyment, enlightenment and safety, and therefore, it is with genuine pleasure that I am now able to declare the new Broadcasting Station open for service." *Courtesy: The Bahamas National Archives*

This marked the second formal opening of a ZNS Radio Station.



## THE DUKE OF WINDSOR



*PHOTO Courtesy: The Bahamas National Archives*

King Edward VIII of England and the far flung British Empire, succeeded his father to the throne in January, 1936. Later that year, on December 11<sup>th</sup>, he abdicated the throne. He made the announcement to the Empire in an emotional Radio Broadcast, saying that he was abdicating to marry “the woman he loved.”

As the Duke of Windsor, he lived in exile, until he was appointed Governor of The Bahamas in 1940. During his tenure, His Royal Highness made frequent broadcasts to the Bahamian people, utilizing the facilities of ZNS at its East Street location, as pictured above.

Traditionally, two historic events were observed in The Bahamas during the month of May. “Empire Day” was observed on May 24<sup>th</sup> with much pomp and fanfare and the anniversary of ZNS was observed on May 26<sup>th</sup>. Therefore, it was fitting that His Royal Highness would make a national broadcast on Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 1942, observing both events.

Regarding Broadcasting in The Bahamas, His Royal Highness said, “I am going to preface my short talk to you this morning with a few words about some suggestions for improving our broadcast programmes in the future. Now that the Radio Transmitting Station has been removed to the new site, and the wave length has been changed, reception in the Out Islands is considerably better.

A little time must yet elapse before the additional power is brought into service, nevertheless, reception is good enough over a considerable area to justify the planning of a series of long term programmes on various subjects of which the Bahamian public should have a wider knowledge.

Briefly, the idea of the revised programme is this: For example, new schemes for the public benefit are sometimes misrepresented to the community, and local prejudice is thus created against them before they are properly understood; and an informative broadcast on the subject, would often go a long way towards explaining the real meaning of such proposals, and allaying any apprehensions the public may have as to their true significance. Then, these broadcasts could be the means of inculcating a greater spirit of civic pride which I find sadly lacking, not so much from indifference, as lack of understanding, both in Nassau and the Out Island settlements. Further, these broadcasts could develop a more informed, receptive and progressive audience, which in time should demand a higher standard of representative Government.

There are many people in Nassau who have already assisted in the presentation of informative broadcasts, and the spare time they have given is greatly appreciated. But, there are also others, members of Public Boards, residents and visitors, who would be rendering a useful public service, were they to come forward with their knowledge and experience and lend a helping hand. Little, however, can be achieved without the cooperation of the audience, whose suggestions and comments are very necessary to the success of the whole scheme, and one which I heartily advocate.

Feeling that there exists in the minds of some of you, confusion of thought regarding recent and future happenings, I wish to inaugurate, to speak about these improved broadcast programmes, by giving you as clear a picture as war time secrecy allows, of the colony's position as I see it today."

*PHOTOS Courtesy: The Bahamas National Archives*



**The Duke & Duchess of Windsor**



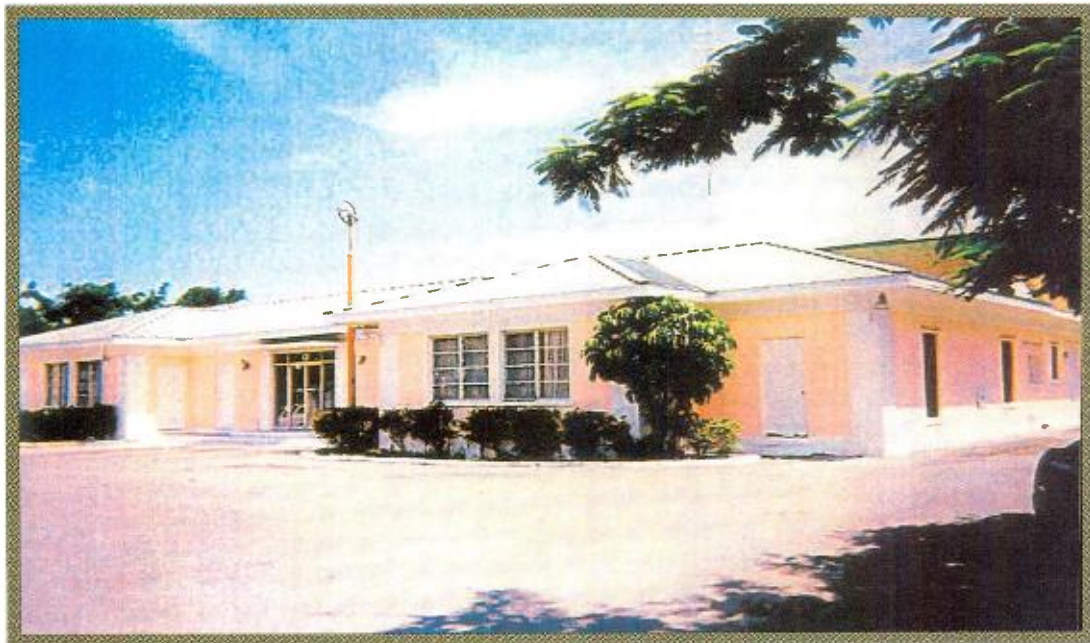
*PHOTO Courtesy: Mr. Louis W. A. Hanchell*

By the year 1954, ZNS had become a respected national institution in its own right and was preparing to become a separate entity from The Bahamas Telegraph Department. Space was needed for its expansion, staff was increasing, and the public was demanding more services and on-air hours.

The building next door became vacant, when the Crown Lands Department, which previously occupied it, was relocated to its new building on Bay Street, near Armstrong Street. Subsequently, the building was transformed to become the Telegraph Department and both buildings were linked by the addition of a corridor.

ZNS Radio Station would occupy all of the top floor of this newly acquired building which offered more space for a larger studio, recording facilities and offices. The beautiful building, pictured above, was the third location of ZNS Radio, and it operated from this East Street location until it moved on August 15<sup>th</sup>, 1959, to its present location at 3<sup>rd</sup> Terrace, Centreville.

The old East Street location is the headquarters of the Central Division of the Royal Bahamas Police Force.



*PHOTO Courtesy: Mr. Louis W. A. Hanchell*

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS**  
**ON THE OCCASION**  
**OF THE OFFICIAL OPENING**  
**OF ZNS HEADQUARTERS**  
**AND STUDIO AT THE 3<sup>rd</sup> TERRACE**  
**EAST, CENTREVILLE,**  
**LOCATION ON**  
**MONDAY, AUGUST 31<sup>st</sup>, 1959**  
**BY**  
**THE HON. WILLIAM HART SWEETING,**  
**CHAIRMAN OF THE BAHAMAS BROADCASTING**  
**AND TELEVISION COMMISSION**



In 1959, a notable occasion in the development of ZNS Radio was the official opening of its newly built broadcasting facilities on 3<sup>rd</sup> Terrace East, Centreville.

Addressing the crowd of more than 300 persons was the Chairman of the Board of the Bahamas Radio and Television Commission, Mr. William Hart Sweeting. Mr. Sweeting served as Chairman from 1957 to 1962. He worked as a volunteer at ZNS in its early years and maintained a keen interest in the development of broadcasting in The Bahamas. Mr. Sweeting had the distinction of performing live on ZNS when the broadcasting studios were formally opened by His Excellency the Governor, Sir Charles Dundas, in the new Telecommunication's Department building on East Street North, on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 1939.

His training as a classical musician and his wide experience in the Civil Service made him an ideal choice for the position of Chairman. From 1927 until the time of his departure, he served with distinction in The Bahamas and overseas. He worked as Financial Secretary in Dominica from 1950 to 1952. From 1955 to 1964, he was the Receiver General and Treasurer in The Bahamas. Following this, he served as Chief Secretary until 1968 and was appointed Deputy Governor in 1969.

W.H. Sweeting, the son of Charles Cecil ( for whom the Senior High School C.C. Sweeting is named) and Clara May Sweeting, was born on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 1909. He also served as an Elder of St. Andrew's The Kirk.

Mr. Sweeting's remarks are of great historic importance and highlight significant dates and events in the exciting story of ZNS up to that time.

He said, "There was no regular broadcasting in The Bahamas before 1936, although occasional broadcasts were made over a Telegraph Department transmitter. In that year at the instigation of the Colonial Secretary, Mr. J.H. Jarrett and the Assistant Superintendent of Telegraphs, Mr. L.J. Hughes, a service was commenced in what was the "Snappy Hat Shop" on Shirley Street where Sir Victor Sassoon's offices are now located. It was a tiny building divided into two rooms, the operator and control panel being in the front room and the studio in the back. The station operated on a frequency of 640 KCS four hours daily, from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. with a power of 500 watts.

The station was operated on a volunteer basis by the Telegraph Department staff with a panel of volunteer announcers of which I was one and it provided an interesting cross section of all the problems which beset broadcasting.

One of the disconcerting things about radio broadcasting is that when a "fluff" is made on the air it goes irrevocably into home after home and you inevitably hear about it the next day. There was one occasion when we were operating during a heavy rainstorm and I needn't remind many of you what used to happen to our old telephone system on occasions like that. There were no special lines to the studio as there are today and broadcasting was dependent on the old telephone cables, which on the occasion mentioned got well and truly crossed so that what was said into the microphone went on the telephone and what was said on the telephone went on the air. After a period of confusion, the Superintendent of Telegraphs called the studio and wanted to know in his best profanity what the so and so was going on - unfortunately not realizing that everything he was saying was going on the air. The evening ended with a highly indignant call from Government House from Mr. Jarrett who was Acting Governor. Fortunately, the station's range was limited. But it happens to every station. In announcing news programme over station WABC, New York, Milton Cross, one of the foremost announcers in the United States was reported to have said 'and now stay stewed for the nudes.'

In 1938, the studio was moved to the back of the Telecommunications Department in East Street and in 1943, a new Collins 1 kw transmitter was installed. A new kw amplifier was built by the staff of the Telegraph Department in 1945 and this equipment remains in service to this day which is a tribute to the Department's technicians. A new 10 kw transmitter is now on order which should give a greatly improved signal in the Out Island and the old equipment will then be reconditioned and retained for emergency use.

In 1953, the studio was relocated to the upper floor of the former Crown Lands Building, East Street, and remained there until it was moved to its new quarters on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 1959.

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Restricted commercial operation began in 1950, and on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1957, by The Bahamas Broadcasting and Television Commission Act, the operation was placed under The Bahamas Broadcasting and Television Commission and became fully commercial.

The Commission receives from Government the proceeds of the Inland Tax on Radio and Television receivers, which superseded the licence fee, and a grant to make up an amount of 10,000 pounds. The grant amounted to 5,970 pounds in 1958. In spite of very difficult staffing problems, ZNS has shown a profit in each year of operation and the surplus and Government grant are being devoted to developing the facilities, this studio being one of the first steps.

In 1958, there were 115 local clients advertising on ZNS and 35 international accounts. Since then, the international business has improved considerably and will, we feel, certainly improve much more when the new transmitter is installed.

Radio broadcasting is a business with peculiar problems of its own, not the least of which is producing programmes, which please the majority of our listeners and attract a larger audience. We know that we have had some success in this direction as reports have been received from Miami stations that they have been losing some of their Bahamian listening audience to ZNS. Programming on ZNS has been handicapped by a shortage of staff and a rapid turnover. We hope we are beginning to meet this to some extent and I believe you will have noticed lately more attention being paid to local events, which should naturally be the main purpose of a local station such as this.

ZNS staff appreciates hearing from their listeners even letters of specific criticism whether written to the newspapers or direct to ZNS. That is how they know whether you are listening and what you like or dislike. They do occasionally receive complaints that news items have not been published and it always transpires in such cases that the bulletins were broadcast in programmes prior to the ones the listener hears. I might explain that news items are only put on twice unless they are considered of special importance when they are read on three occasions. ZNS has three local news programmes per day at 8:15 a.m., 1:15 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. The news is broadcast as it arises so that it is possible for a news report to have appeared twice on ZNS before it becomes current or appears in a newspaper. A listener hoping to pick up a bulletin in the morning on happenings in the House of Assembly the previous day may well be out of luck if the House adjourned early and the bulletins went on in the previous 1:15 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. programmes.

Two of the urgent matters which the Broadcasting Commission realized they had to consider when they assumed control of ZNS were the provision of improved studio facilities and a new transmitter. It was felt that the studio has to be proceeded with first, as the Telecommunications Department was in urgent need of the studio space on East Street for office and telephone exchange development... a lot of land was purchased from Centreville Company Limited and plans were drawn by Mr. Geoffrey Stubbs of the Nassau Engineering Company in consultation with our New York consultants, Intercontinental Services Ltd., whose representative is an old friend of ZNS, Mr. Walt Staskow. Mr. Staskow, also happens to be Manager of Station ZBM Radio and T.V. in Bermuda.

The purpose of the Commission was to construct an efficient studio which bore as much resemblance to a dwelling house as possible, so as to not be out of keeping with the Centreville residential area and we feel we have succeeded in this, as the building has been mistaken for a dwelling house on several occasions. The studio is not as large as we would have liked, but the commission had to tailor the building to come within its debt ceiling and yet preserve its efficiency.

Bills of quantities were prepared by D.J. Bloomfield and Partners and the successful tender was that of the United Construction Company Ltd. For 47, 228 pounds. The commission is very gratified that the final cost will be some 2,000 pounds less than that figure. This is a result on which Mr. Stubbs, Mr. Bloomfield and Mr. Mosko and the contractors should be congratulated. We have to thank Mr. Stubbs for the very fine building he designed and United Construction Company for the high grade of workmanship which has gone into the construction.

The arrangement of the building as you will see is such that the studio end can be sealed off after hours as in the case of storm and be entirely self-contained. For this purpose, you will notice that a small kitchenette has been provided which also serves to provide snacks for the announcers during the long hours of operation from 6:00 a.m. to midnight. There are two studios, one particularly wired for recordings and a recording room which can double as a second control room in case of difficulty with the main equipment. An announcer's preparation room is provided, where you will notice racks in which each announcer can prepare and file his programme material. A library room with sliding door cabinets made by Mr. Mosko provides ample space for the library of records and tapes. I asked Mr. Bethel how many musical items he had in the library and he estimated that there were some 55,000. In the new room and there is space for expansion which was not available in the old building."

Mr. Sweeting then invited His Excellency the Governor, Sir Arthur Raynor, to bring remarks. He said, "The Chairman of The Bahamas Broadcasting Commission has given you a spirited account of the development of ZNS and the commission is to be congratulated on the progress made since it took over, especially in the construction of this fine new studio. I am particularly interested to learn that the building has cost some 2,000 pounds less than the estimate. This is a refreshing event, and the architect and the builders are to be congratulated, but I must confess that had there been any other result, the Chairman of the Commission would have had difficulty in facing his colleagues in Council.

The broadcasting services have operated under considerable difficulties for some years, as not only has the equipment needed replacing, but announcing and programming staff have been difficult to retain.

The Commission has had to appeal to the Legislature and as a result, the position was recertified by the Legislature by an amendment to The Bahamas Broadcasting and Television Commission Act in 1958, by which the Commission was allowed to fix its own salaries.

The station would now have a full staff but for the departure of the Assistant Manager (Kim Jackson) who has gone to open a new station elsewhere. And it is a source of regret that he cannot be here for the opening of this new studio in which he took a keen interest.

In 1956, the year before the Broadcasting Commission assumed control of broadcasting, the revenue of the station was 19,000 pounds. Two years later this had reached 42,000 pounds, so that the Commission has had to provide for the requirements of a rapidly expanding operation.

It must be encouraging to the Commission that in both years under its management, there has been a net profit on advertising revenue alone, not taking into account the proceeds of the tax on radio and television receivers or the Government grant. The profit in 1958, after calculating depreciation and reserves for doubtful debts, was only 2,700 pounds. But this was largely owing to the unfortunate affects of the January strike on business generally.

Business improved this year, and it is hoped that the gross advertising revenue may reach 50,000 pounds. I am sure this is very gratifying to the Commission.

During the year, a training course has been provided for Mr. Leslie Cartwright at the Radio Corporation of America's Training School in New York and good reports have been received of his progress. He will be employed as a studio engineer on his return.

Technical training of this kind has been of great value in the Telecommunications Department, which department has a tremendous programme of development of its own in hand, and which also deserves great credit for the skill and hard work with which they offer service under difficult conditions.

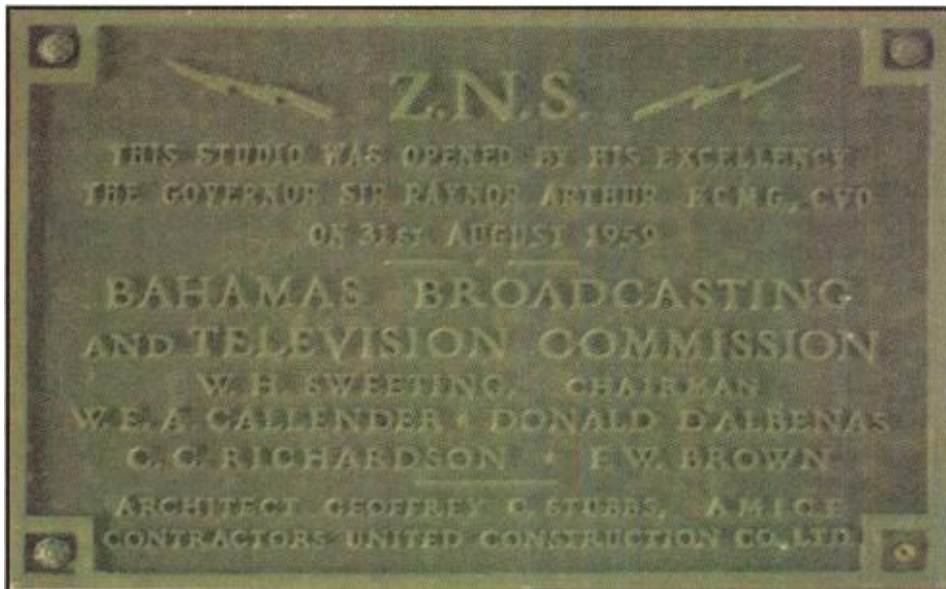


It would have been appreciated if it had been possible to begin the operation of the new transmitter on this occasion, but the installation has been delayed for reasons beyond the Commission's control. I understand that the equipment has been shipped and the Commission hopes to have it installed in about a month's time.

I now have pleasure in declaring the new studio officially open, and wish the Commission and its staff success in their future operations."

Sir Arthur Raynor then cut the blue ribbon which was across the door. Accompanied by his wife, Lady Arthur and their children, they entered the door and led as many who wished, to inspect the new studio and facilities.

A commemorative plaque marks this event. It is affixed to the wall at the inside entrance to the staff canteen in the Radio Building.





The guests included the Acting Colonial Secretary, the Hon. A.G. Knox Johnstone, the Acting Chief Justice, the Hon. K.G.L. Isaacs (later Sir), Acting Attorney General, the Hon. Maxwell J. Thompson and Mrs. Thompson, Mr. Walt Stasknow from ZBM, Bermuda, Miss Jeanette Systima Beaudoin, representing ZNS' New York Sales Representatives, the Rt. Rev. Spence Burton, Lord Bishop of Nassau, the Most Rev. Paul Leonard Hagarty O.S.B. of the Catholic Church and American Council, the Hon.S. Roger Taylor and his wife.

The gala celebration continued with a cocktail reception and dancing to the music of Delbon Johnson's Calypso Band.

In addition to the Chairman, the Hon. William H. Sweeting, persons named on the commemorative plaque are as follows:

Mr. W. Ernest A. Callender , who was a leading barrister, became a Queen's Counsel in April,1970. He was born in Nassau on August 12th, 1909, and was the son of Walter E.S. Callender, an outstanding barrister and Queen's Counsel, and his wife, Grace. Ernest Callender was a founding partner in the law firm which bears the family name "Callender and Callender Law Partners." His sons, Colin and Bradley, are also lawyers and continue the family's long involvement in the legal profession.

Mr. Callender succeeded Mr. Sweeting as Chairman and served for a number of years.

Mr. Donald d'Albenas, a leading commercial merchant , was president of d'Albenas Agency Limited, a company he founded and a director of several leading businesses. He served two terms as President of The Bahamas Chamber of Commerce.

Born in Montreal, Canada, he grew up in Nassau and attended Queen's College. He is married to the former Dorethea Malone.

Mr. d'Albenas was elected to the House of Assembly for Long Island in 1956 and was appointed Minister of Out Island Affairs in 1964 when Ministerial Government was introduced.

Mr. Cyril Campbell Richardson was born in Matthew Town, Inagua on March 20th, 1901 to Mr. Winifred Wilson Richardson, a leading merchant and his wife, Winifred, and attended the All Age School there. He continued his studies at the Jamaica College, Kingston, and Aberdeen University, Scotland, where he excelled in sports and was captain of some of the school teams.

He served the Bahamas Olympic Association with distinction as an active member for many years and promoted the game of cricket.

His career included working as a Journalist and Feature Writer at the Tribune and later as a Real Estate Agent.

He was married to Minerva (nee Clarke) and they were the parents of one son, Dr. Deryck Richardson, who resides in the United States, and a daughter, Shirley McDonald, who resides in The Bahamas.

Captain Frederick Walter Brown served the country well as a pilot who guided hundreds of ships of all sizes safely into Nassau's Harbour. He is renowned and his professionalism well documented within the shipping industry.

He was the son of a pilot, Captain Willard Brown, and his wife, Florence (nee Bethel). He was educated at Queen's College, Nassau.

Elected to the House of Assembly for the Exuma District in 1956, he was a moving force in establishing the annual Family Island Regatta, which is held in Elizabeth Harbour, George Town, Exuma.

# RADIO BAHAMAS NORTHERN SERVICE

## ZNS-3



**“ZNS Starts Broadcasting In Freeport”** was the headline in the Tribune on Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 1973. The story was based on a release from the Chairman of the Corporation, Senator the Honourable Milo Butler Jr. on the establishment of Radio Bahamas Northern Service in Freeport, Grand Bahama, the nation’s second city.

Mr. Butler announced that “The first step in the setting up of Radio Bahamas Northern Service in Freeport, was taken today (March 10<sup>th</sup>, 1973) when a low power relay transmitter in The Bahamas second city began rebroadcasting Radio Bahamas programmes on a new frequency for testing purposes. The second step will take place on Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, when Radio Bahamas Northern Service will open its administrative offices in the Kipling Building, Freeport for News gathering and advertising Sales. The final step would come at a future date with the installation of a 10,000 watt transmitter designed to serve all of the Northern Bahamas over the 1060 frequency. Meanwhile, the testing is expected to continue to enable the Corporation to gather necessary technical data.”

For years, ZNS Radio Bahamas proudly boasted that “nothing covers The Bahamas better than Radio Bahamas.” While this was true to a point, and was never challenged by the competitors of ZNS, the coverage of ZNS Radio before 1973, was “spotty” and left much to be desired in places such as Abaco, Grand Bahama and Bimini. In these areas, the 1540 signal from New Providence could not be heard at all.

The corporation’s strict adherence to the regulations of the Federal Communications Commission prevented ZNS from reaching these islands because the station was licenced to transmit in a southerly directional pattern only, and major islands to the north were outside the range of coverage.

Ironically, when ZNS-1 (1540 AM) was being heard in the Caribbean islands, it was faintly heard in the Northern Bahamas, and the Corporation was challenged to make radio available to the people in this every important and fast-growing area. They were not to be left out of the benefits of modern broadcasting. The establishment of the Northern Service was also seen as a priority in light of the forward movement to self-determination and nationhood and ZNS - ‘The Voice of The Bahamas’ - needed more than ever, to be heard in every place.”

There was already vocal and sometimes strong, heated opposition to the idea of The Bahamas gaining its independence. The emotional attachment to the Queen, to the monarchy and "the mother" country, Great Britain, was strongest in Abaco, where many were advocating secession from the rest of The Bahamas, and to a lesser degree in the Freeport area, which was dominated by expatriates in every field of endeavour.

In fulfillment of its mandate, the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas developed and executed plans which would guarantee that no island would be isolated from its coverage. "The Northern Service" would come on stream so that all the Bahamian people could benefit from the special pre-Independence programmes, including the discussion on the Government's Green and White Paper Proposals.

Land was obtained from the Grand Bahama Port Authority for the erection of a broadcast studio on West Atlantic Drive. For years, the sign heralding the coming of broadcasting to Grand Bahama, stood as a landmark on that site. It read:

### **"FUTURE SITE OF RADIO BAHAMAS NORTHERN SERVICE ZNS-3"**

Meanwhile, rented space was secured in the Kipling Building in the heart of Freeport's business district, and outfitted to meet the immediate needs of ZNS for studios and offices.



The opening was announced in the Freeport News and on ZNS. The message was as follows:

"Radio Bahamas announced May 16<sup>th</sup>, 1973 as the on-air date of its Northern Service, originating from Freeport, Grand Bahama.

Beginning at 6:00 a.m., Wednesday, the sixteenth, the new station, Radio Bahamas Northern Service, ZNS - 3, will begin its broadcast day with programmes from 6:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The official opening of the Radio Station by the Prime Minister, the Hon. L.O. Pindling, takes place Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 p.m., on the lawn of the Kipling "B" Building, Freeport."

Mr. Calsey W. Johnson has the distinction of being the station's first Manager. He was followed by an impressive line of broadcasters from all disciplines, who contributed greatly to the development of the Northern Service. These persons include the following: Reginald Smith, the late George Ferguson, Louis Hanchell, the late Albert Adderley, Edison Bethel, Anthony Foster, Edwin Lightbourn, Martin Albury and Diana Swann, the first female to fill this position.

Since 1973, ZNS-3 has changed both its frequency and its transmitting power. This has extended its listening area, as it can now be heard in New Providence, Andros, Eleuthera, Cat Island, Exuma, and in South Florida, as well as its originally intended area, Grand Bahama, Abaco and Bimini, on a frequency of 810 Kilohertz, and a transmitting power of 5,000 watts for 24 hours daily.

The staff complement has also grown and to its credit, all positions are now filled by residents in the area, who have been fully trained for every job classification. Radio Bahamas Northern Service is not autonomous, but it has developed to a point where it is not necessary to supplement its staff with personnel from its headquarters in New Providence.

ZNS-3, Radio Bahamas Northern Service is keeping pace with modern technology and communication skills. It offers a full range of broadcasting services which are second to none.

Since 6<sup>th</sup> November, 1990, TV-13 has been operating a television facility from Nassau to Freeport via the CATV Cable System. Local productions from Freeport and a nightly News package are featured on the Television Network.

The Northern Service also has to its credit the nurturing, training and development of one of the country's foremost broadcasters, Obediah Wilchcombe. Not only is he a broadcast journalist, but well-rounded as a producer, director and announcer. A native son of Grand Bahama, he worked himself up through the ranks of the Northern Service and is ideally suited for the national position he holds as the Minister of Tourism with responsibility for Broadcasting.



**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD 1973** - Left to right

Milo B. Butler Jr., Chariman , George W. Smith, Vice Chairman  
Reno J. Brown - Aaron H. Knowles Sr. - Perry G. Christie



**ZNS-3 ORIGINAL STAFF-1973**

Calsey Johnson  
Barbara Johnson  
Kirk Russell

Sheryl Taylor  
Perry Clarke  
Maria Butler

Floyd Grant  
Reg Smith  
Ambrose Smith

**GEORGE  
FERGUSON,  
STATION  
MANAGER &  
STAFF-1977**

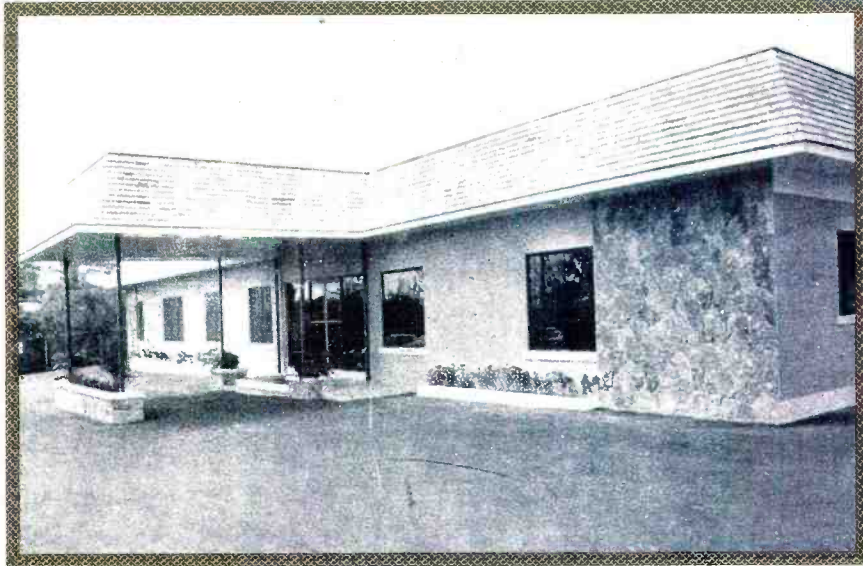


**OFFICAL  
VISIT TO THE  
TRANSMITTER  
SITE-1979**

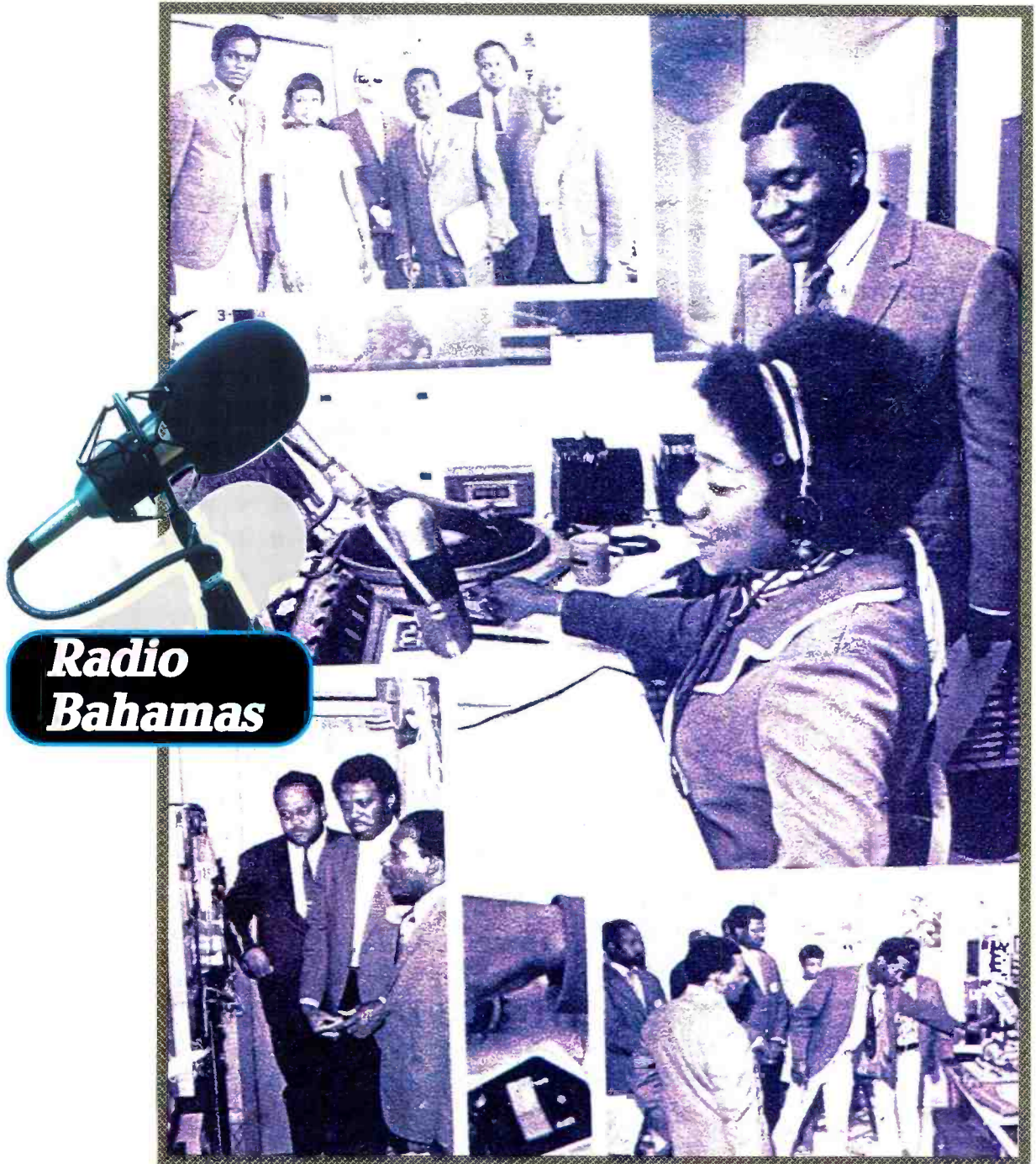
# OFFICIAL OPENING

## EXTENSION TO THE BUILDING

Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> April, 1975



*PHOTOS Courtesy: ZNS Archives*



**Radio  
Bahamas**

PRIME MINISTER PINDLING'S VISIT TO RADIO BAHAMAS ON 26<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 1972



## ZNS - 2

On July 21<sup>st</sup>, 1962, the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas released this important announcement regarding its further development:

“Radio Station ZNS will commence commercial Broadcasting on a new 250 watt channel to be located at 1240 K/cs on the radio dial on Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>. The channel, which is to be operated from 5:30 to 11:00 pm daily, will cover New Providence only. The programmes on 1240 k/cs will include classical music, drama, talk and current affairs. The advertising rates in the new service will be 25% less than the existing rate on 1540 k/cs. When the advertiser uses both services, the rate will be 33 1/3 per cent of the existing rate.”

Because the original programme format for ZNS had little appeal, ZNS-2 was not the station of choice for the majority of Bahamians. Further, the advertising rate structure was unprofitable. Therefore, a sensible business decision was made to change the format and increase its rate.

ZNS-2 soon became a contemporary Radio Station and began daily operations from 6:00 am to 12:00 midnight, when it connected with the Radio Bahamas Network until 6:00 am. The change in format made ZNS-2 an instant hit with the young, who easily grooved to the pulsating music provided by the nation’s pioneer disc jockies.

In the early 1980’s, “SPECIAL INTEREST” broadcasting became popular in the United States. The “ALL RELIGIOUS FORMAT” of some stations reaching The Bahamas caught the attention of the Bahamas Christian Council which regarded this as being a positive influence. The council was successful in petitioning the Government for a radio channel for the exclusive broadcast of Christian music, Educational programmes and specially produced and sponsored local church programmes at reduced rates. The “all religious” format on ZNS-2 started on Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> July, 1988 and it remains successful.

## ZNS-FM 104.5

The Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas continued to expand its services by establishing ZNS FM 104.5 on the 10<sup>th</sup> July, 1988, as a contemporary radio station. It would replace ZNS-2 as the station for top entertainment.

ZNS FM remains popular with the young radio listeners and continues to do well among the increasing number of new radio stations on the FM band.



# TELEVISION

## ZNS TV-13



For more than a decade prior to local television becoming a reality, the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas was bombarded with proposals and ideas from persons representing some of the more notable television systems in the United States, Canada and Europe for the establishment of local television. However, most of these were considered to be too costly and premature.

The need for a local television station became acutely apparent in the mid-1960's as increasing numbers of Bahamians were purchasing television sets and growing more impatient and annoyed with the inadequate reception they were getting from television stations in the Miami, Florida market. Even the most sophisticated directional antenna systems could not guarantee a good clear picture. Therefore, Bahamians grew weary of the constant snow and faded pictures on their television sets. At best, it was "radio" with distorted pictures occasionally.

The first serious attempt at establishing a Bahamian Television station was in 1968. The Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas entered into an agreement with the owner of Station KOCO-Television in Oklahoma, United States, Mr. Ben West, to train a group of young Bahamians who would become the pioneers of television. The group included the following persons who are now deceased: George Ferguson, Franklyn Holmes, Leander Bethel and Sidney North. Other members of the group were Ambrose Smith, Michael Thompson, Eugene Thompson, Hank Ritchie, Anthony Davies and Norman Rolle.

The foundation of the building to house the proposed television station was laid on property directly facing the Ardastra Gardens in Chippingham, New Providence and the wheels were in motion for the beginning of television broadcasting. However, it was not to be. Plans were scrapped and hopes dashed because of sharp differences on technicalities between Members of the Boards of The Bahamas Telecommunications Department and the Broadcasting Corporation. Shortly thereafter, the men hired and trained for this project were deployed to other technical areas within both corporations.

It was not until 1975 that the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas would resume serious negotiation for the introduction of television broadcasting.

During this period, ZNS was an active member of the Caribbean Broadcasting Union, CBU. With the assistance of this organization, the Bahamian delegation succeeded in having the topic of Bahamian Television placed on the agenda of the annual meeting of the CBU, held in Nassau in January, 1976.

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Based on their experiences and the needs of their countries, the representatives from Bermuda, Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Suriname suggested different approaches to television in the Caribbean.

The Bahamian delegation articulated the kind of system which it wanted to introduce. Eventually, with the advice received, and aided by the experts in attendance, a unique system was designed for ZNS. Six of the world's top manufacturers of broadcast equipment were invited to bid on the equipment package for the system.

Local architects and builders crafted the well-laid out custom designed building at 3<sup>rd</sup> Terrace, Centreville. They addressed the special needs of the system, so that each piece of the equipment could be carefully integrated into the system as a whole.

The Radio Corporation of America (RCA) supplied most of the equipment and provided technical assistance and personnel to supervise its installation.

The Equipment Package Agreement also included technical training of staff members. On 1<sup>st</sup> November, 1976, twelve employees began an intensive thirteen-week course in Television Production, Management and Organization, at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in Toronto, Canada. This same group, formed the nucleus for the introduction of Television Broadcasting in The Bahamas. The group included the following persons: Edward Charles Carter, Carl Bethel, Kirk Smith, Elva Russell-Rolle, Alx Curry, Edith Sands, Samuel Hepburn, Gregory Lampkin, Eugene Clare, Robert Thompson, Michael Smith, and Patrick Walkes.

The long-awaited day came on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> July, 1977. On that date, ZNS-TV-13 started on the air with a test transmission which continued throughout that week. These test transmissions were all successful and well-received throughout New Providence, Eleuthera, Andros, and other nearby islands.

ZNS TV-13 began its official programming on Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 1977, the 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Independence of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

With great expectation and amidst the pomp and pageantry of a royal occasion, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, officially opened TV-13, the first television station in The Bahamas, on Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 1977. This official opening was done in the presence of His Royal Highness, Prince Philip. Also in attendance were the Prime Minister, Sir Lynden Pindling, Lady Pindling, Chairman of the Board, Senator the Honourable Kendal W. Nottage and Mrs. Rubie Nottage, and Members of the Board and their spouses. The General Manager and staff of ZNS Radio and Television and more than two thousand (2,000) specially invited guests witnessed the unveiling of the commemorative plaque.

Prior to the unveiling ceremony, Her Majesty was escorted on a tour of the facilities by the General Manager, Mr. Calsey Johnson, and witnessed the taping of "Its Academic," a weekly educational programme.

## Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II & Dr. Calesy W. Johnson



*PHOTO Courtesy: Antoine Ferrier*

The opening ceremony was brief. Senator Nottage highlighted the need for good communication. He said, "... Communication is important, and in the archipelago of The Bahamas it is essential." He noted that ZNS is a "positive force" in the country and is helping in giving direction to the youth of the nation. He further said, "The effort to have a television medium in the country shows the determination of a young nation's intent on progressing."

Senator Nottage thanked several media organizations for the part they played in the training of the television staff. These organizations included the following: the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, the Caribbean Broadcasting Union, the Suriname Film Festival, Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, WTVJ, Channel 4, Miami, Florida, and representatives from Trinidad and Tobago.

Immediately, he invited Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, to declare the station officially open. She did so without making a speech or remarks. Her Majesty pulled back the blue curtain and revealed the commemorative plaque marking the event, which reads:



Before her departure, Her Majesty the Queen and Prince Philip were assisted by the long-serving Secretary to the Board of the Corporation, Mrs. Rose Bradshaw, when they signed the special Visitor's Book, which is well secured and treasured at the corporation's headquarters.



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II & Mrs. Rose Bradshaw

*PHOTO Courtesy: Antoine Ferrier*

Official Opening ZNS-Television Station  
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II  
October 20, 1977

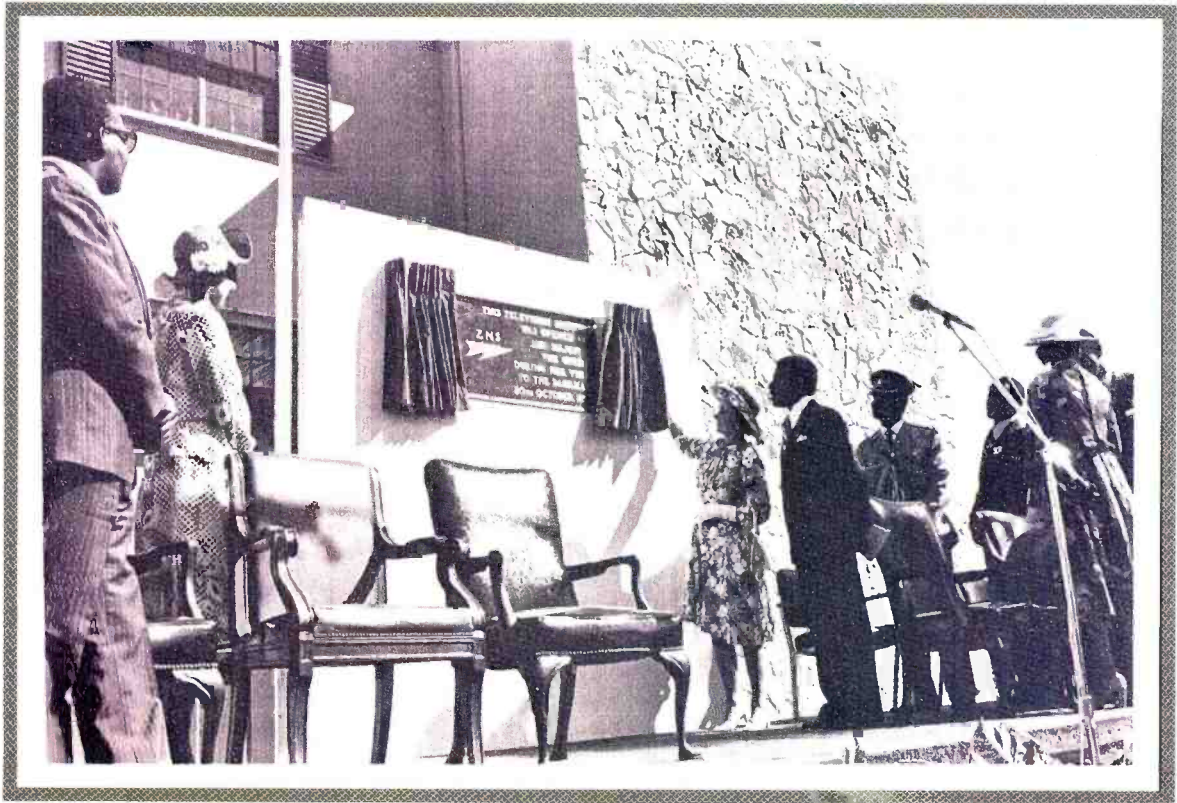
*Guests*

Date

Name

Address

Date	Name	Address	
		STREET	STATE
		STREET	STATE
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		STREET	STATE
		STREET	STATE
	<i>Elizabeth R</i>	STREET	STATE
		STREET	STATE
	<i>20<sup>th</sup> October</i>	STREET	STATE
	<i>1977</i>	STREET	STATE
		STREET	STATE
	<i>Thompson</i>	STREET	STATE
		STREET	STATE
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*PHOTO Courtesy: Bahamas National Archives & Bahamas Information Services*

# **THE PUBLIC BROADCASTING UNIT PARLIAMENTARY CHANNEL LOCAL PROGRAMMING UNIT**

**BY  
MARTIN ALBURY**

The Parliamentary Channel was introduced in 1994 by the Government of The Bahamas through an agreement with the providers of Cable Television, Cable Bahamas, to provide "gavel to gavel coverage" of the proceedings of the Houses of Parliament, to provide public service information and an inside look at the key architects and builders of the Bahamian political system.

The Public Broadcasting Unit was formed in April, 2004 to oversee the management of the Parliamentary Channel and to provide additional Public Affairs programming.

The Local Programming Unit came into being on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005 for the purpose of producing programmes and documentaries highlighting issues and accomplishments of Bahamians.

The Aims and Objectives of the Public Broadcasting Unit are as follows: To develop the Parliamentary Channel into The Bahamas' number one source of parliamentary, political and public affairs programming; to produce a prime time line-up devoted to political matters of importance to Bahamians, to provide viewers with gavel to gavel coverage of the proceedings of the House of Assembly and the Senate, to deliver the most comprehensive, unbiased analysis of the issues arising from debates in the Houses of Parliament, and to attract a dedicated team of journalists, analysts and reporters who can consistently provide viewers with intellectual and informative programming enhanced by candid interviews with influential guests to stimulate the minds and challenge the opinions of all Bahamians.



# EARLY PROGRAMMES

A careful examination of the early programmes aired on ZNS will show that at its beginning, the station was designed to imitate the British Broadcasting Corporation and it relied upon the BBC for the bulk of its recorded programmes. This constituted about ninety percent (90%) of the daily broadcast schedule of ZNS.

In a letter dated November 30<sup>th</sup>, 1937, to the Radex Press in Cleveland, Ohio, the Secretary of the Broadcasting Committee, Mr. Theo Knowles, requested that the following information regarding ZNS be published:

Call: ZNS  
 Frequency: 540 Kilocycles per second  
 Wave Length: 556 metres approximately  
 Power: 400 Watts  
 Hours of Working: 1330 to 1345 E.S.T. and  
 2036 to 2130 E.S.T.

The station frequently relays Daventry/England starting at 8:00 p.m. E.S.T. and its opening announcement is as follows:-

"This is Nassau calling Nassau the Isles of June, we are radiating on Z.N.S. – "Z" for Zephyr, "N" for Nassau and "S" for Sunshine, on a frequency of 540 kilocycles per second, or 556 metres approximately. This station is owned and operated by the Government of The Bahamas.

Identification Signal: Recording of Bells of St. Margaret, London  
 Close Down: Recording of "God save the King."

A weekly programme listing of ZNS published on Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 1937, is consistent with this standard. An example follows:

## Tuesday

8:30 p.m.	Sign on, weather report for Nassau and vicinity
8:33 p.m.	Record
8:38 p.m.	News and Announcements
8:53 p.m.	Dance Record
9:00 p.m.	Relay from Daventry (BBC) Fred Harley and his Sextette
9:30 p.m.	Sign off

Obviously, the programmes aired on ZNS were consistent with the idea of the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Jarrett, that "the repeated projection on the minds of listeners on the Out Islands of British idea must exert a great influence." This was endorsed by the first advisory committee, as well as those who served on the Board of Directors of ZNS until the late 1950's. It was made mandatory to include large portions of programmes from the BBC Transcription Services; live relays of the BBC News up to three times each day, as well as "London Calling-" with limited appeal.



The Bahamian masses regarded these programmes as "high brow" and they opted for the American programmes, which were more readily identifiable. They understood the language and the artists were all household names.

When ZNS became a commercial entity and had to compete for its share of the market, its programme format was radically changed. Local programming then, as now, was a major challenge. The addition of top local artists, such as renowned organist, Mr. Percy Hanna, the Gospel Singers headed by the Reverend Earle Weech and his wife, Violet, the Ebony Musical Association headed by Reverend Richard Barrett, and the Dynamic Features. This group of local artists also included Mr. Bert Cambridge, who broadcast live from his Bay Street establishment on Sunday afternoons with a supporting cast of local talent. They contributed in attracting a wider cross section of listeners.

Later, two request programmes, "Saturday You Ask For It," and "Hospital Calling," were added to the mix. "Hospital Calling," which was exclusively for patients in the hospital was a smashing success.

ZNS had an unwritten policy of only employing persons with a "mid-Atlantic" voice. This resulted in an almost white announcing staff until the late 1950's, when Mr. Berne Evans was hired. He made the "Nat King Cole" show on Sunday afternoons popular. For many years, this programme was sustained by the sponsor, Thaddaeus Wilson of Wilson's Shoe Shop, an "over-the-hill establishment" on East Street South in New Providence.

Religious programmes have always been popular with Bahamian radio listeners. When the programme, "Morning Devotions" was first added to the ZNS format, it was restricted to a selected few from the established churches. Clergymen were required to read the set prayers from "New Every Morning," a book compiled by the British Broadcasting Corporation, BBC, London. All of the hymns were selected from those recorded by the BBC Transcription Service and available at the station's library. Clergymen were allowed to choose the scripture lesson, but were not permitted to comment.

Likewise, the one hour Saturday morning and Sunday evening church services, which continue as a public service, were also restricted to the head church of the recognized religious bodies that were mainly located in down-town Nassau.

In keeping with its mandate, the Advisory Committee for Broadcasting and the Boards which replaced it, wisely formulated and maintained rules for the orderly conduct of broadcasting, to ensure public decency and to avoid slander and libel.

A number of persons have interpreted "The Broadcasting Rules" which were enacted by the Legislature and a corporate policy which insists on the audition and whetting of some programmes prior to being aired as censorship. However, to operate without proper controls and guidelines would be totally irresponsible and unworthy of the public's trust.

Chapter 305 of the statute law of The Bahamas makes provision for the establishment of a corporation to carry on a broadcasting and television service in The Bahamas and for matters connected thereto, with effect from May 17<sup>th</sup>, 1956.

The Broadcasting Rules are detailed in the subsidiary legislation "Broadcasting Rules 1992, Chapter 305, section 18, which commenced on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 1992, and they remain in effect.

# BAHAMIANIZATION

When the Progressive Liberal Party became the Government of The Bahamas on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 1967, it smashed the “glass ceiling” which prevented some Bahamians from being promoted to the top positions at ZNS Radio Station.

Like most business places at that time, the key managerial and supervisory positions at ZNS were held by expatriate workers. ZNS was like a revolving door with the constant arrival and departure of its on air staff. Most of them did not have any connection to The Bahamas and no real reason to become permanent employees.

This ended with the attainment of “Majority Rule” which opened the doors of opportunity for all Bahamians to become fully qualified to fill every job category. Because of the Government-stated Bahamianization Policy, staff training was given priority. Employees were afforded the opportunity to gain additional education by obtaining scholarships to Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Canada, the Radio Corporation of America in New York, the University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica and other technical institutions in The Bahamas and in other countries. Attachments were arranged for staff to work at radio stations such as the British Broadcasting Corporation, Radio Jamaica, ZBM in Bermuda, Radio GBS in Guyana and in Trinidad and Tobago.

The premier broadcasters and journalists in The Bahamas were privileged to be on the staff of ZNS at an important point in their development. Many attest that this work experience made the difference in their career choices and the public was made aware of their abilities.

New job classifications were added and quickly filled by talented young Bahamians who were committed to becoming professionals in the field of broadcasting.

All the staffing needs of this expanding Radio Network System have been filled by Bahamians willing to embrace the opportunities created by the “Bahamianization Policy” of the government in 1967.

Further, as a direct result of this policy, the restrictions which had prevented the majority of Bahamians, churches and clergymen from broadcasting were removed. This allowed all Ministers of the Gospel access to the airwaves. They could now conduct “Morning Devotions” freely. Despite their locations, churches of all denominations were added to the roster for broadcast services. More importantly, native Bahamian artists could now showcase their talents to the nation. The radio station became more committed to playing Bahamian music and developing the culture of The Bahamas.

# **ADMINISTRATION**



On July 13<sup>th</sup> 2005, General Manager of the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas, Mr. Anthony Foster, made the following announcement: "The Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas is changing its logo from the colours red, white and blue to the national colours of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, black, gold and aquamarine, a reflection of our national pride and patriotism.

By making this change, the corporation hopes to foster a greater sense of national pride in the people of The Bahamas whom it is mandated to inform, educate and entertain.

The new logo, which was designed by one of the corporation's employees, Graphic Artist, Derek V. Bain, depicts the aquamarine water of The Bahamas with a microphone covering the entire archipelago. This is representative of the company's ability to project its audio and visual presentations via the airwave on radio and television throughout the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

Stretching across the archipelago in bright gold letters is the stations call name "ZNS" which means "Zephyr Nassau Sunshine," which was approved by the Federal Communications Commission and the World Broadcasting Union to identify the National Station of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

Inscribed across the base of the microphone are the words "NETWORK BAHAMAS" in bold black color which signals the inclusion of all radio and television stations operated under the umbrella of the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas. It also represents the strength, resilience and tenacity of the people of The Bahamas whom ZNS serves."

## **THE BROADCASTING CORPORATION OF THE BAHAMAS**

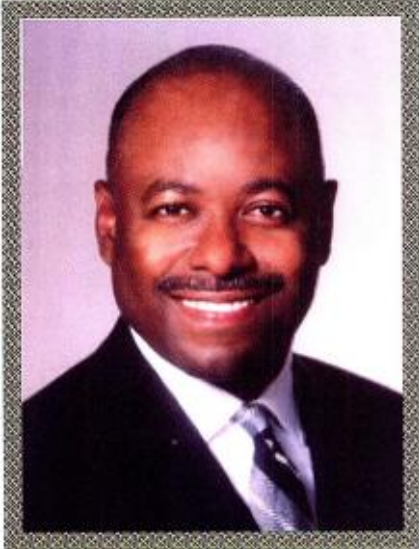
### **MISSION STATEMENT**

To INFORM, EDUCATE and ENTERTAIN, while relentlessly pursuing excellence in all aspects of Broadcasting, and promote freedom of expression for all people of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

To SAFEGUARD, ENRICH and STRENGTHEN the socio-cultural well-being of the nation, and the economic viability of the Corporation.

### **VISION**

To develop a national broadcasting system by maximizing opportunities by innovative ideas and technology, positively impacting the development process of the nation and the region.



**HON. OBEDIAH H. WILCHCOMBE**  
**MINISTER OF TOURISM & BROADCASTING**

Obediah Wilchcombe was elected to the House of Assembly as the Member of Parliament for the West End and Bimini constituency on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2002. Shortly afterward, he was sworn in as a member of the Cabinet and Minister of Tourism and Broadcasting.

“Obie,” as he is affectionately called, grew up in Freeport, Grand Bahama, but also spent time in Sea Grape and West End, Grand Bahama before attending high school at Queen’s College in Nassau.

At sixteen(16), he began a successful career as a journalist, becoming a Reporter at the Broadcasting Corporation of the Bahamas in 1975. In 1982, he received an In-Service Award to attend the Caribbean Institute of Mass Communications at the University of the West Indies.

During his tenure with the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas, Mr. Wilchcombe served as Deputy Director of News and as News Director, before being promoted to Assistant General Manager. In a career marked by many achievements, he has covered the late Prime Minister, the Rt. Honourable Sir Lynden Pindling, led the team responsible for introducing ZNS television to Grand Bahama and hosted “The Bahamas Today,” a two-hour talk show that focused on political, economic and social issues in the nation. Mr. Wilchcombe also won a national award for writing and producing the television documentary, “Base Streets,” which examined the impact of cocaine on Bahamian society.

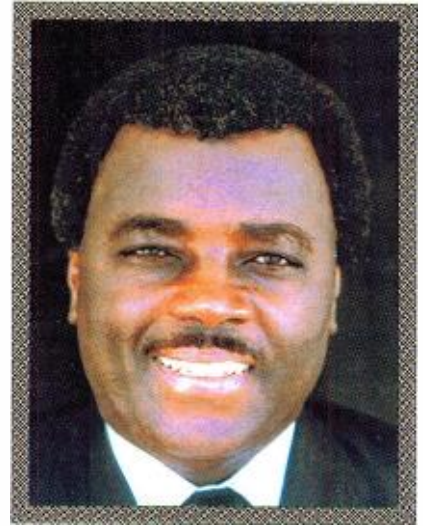
He was first appointed to the Senate in August, 1994, by former Prime Minister, Sir Lynden Pindling. The following year, he was elected as Chairman of the Progressive Liberal Party.

An avid sportsman, he is a former President of the Grand Bahama Basketball Association and the Commonwealth American Football League.

## PRESENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Executive Chairman DR. CALSEY W. JOHNSON, J.P.

By  
Norman Rolle



In the 1950s, picturesque Hatchet Bay, Eleuthera was bustling with industries. It produced chickens, eggs, milk and beef, supplying the rest of the country with these food items. The industries provided jobs for all who wanted to work. While many of his contemporaries took jobs that were available on the island, young Calsey Johnson, with an above-average inquiring mind, was mentally preparing himself for his entry in either the broadcast journalism profession or the Methodist Ministry. His final choice was broadcasting.

As a young boy growing up in Hatchet Bay, he was always fascinated by Radio News broadcasts and had decided at an early age that broadcasting was the profession he wanted to enter after finishing school. But his desire was not to be realized, as he had hoped. In fact, with limited opportunities back in the 1950s, he got into broadcasting quite by chance.

He writes, "After sitting the Senior Cambridge Examination and graduating from High School, Simms Long Island Christian Institute, I got my first job in the Audit Department of the Public Treasury. ZNS News Department at the time operated with two people only and all the positions there were filled. But six months after the Public Treasury job, a vacancy existed at ZNS for a reporter. This came about when Eric Wilmott resigned and went to work at The Nassau Guardian. I was fortunate in obtaining a transfer to ZNS in July, 1959."

On that date, the career of Calsey Wilmore Johnson began. His rise to the top was not free from bumps and pains. Many times, he says, he felt like quitting but the innate childhood desire to become a broadcaster kept him going.

After the "Black Tuesday" incident of 1965, (which was so named because of the hurling out of the House of Assembly window of the Mace by the late Prime Minister Pindling, who was then Leader of the Opposition) being an eyewitness to the handling of the events by management of ZNS which comprised white Bahamians and expatriates, Mr. Johnson says that he came closest to quitting, but again, his childhood motivation overcame his momentary frustration and disgust.

It was the aftermath of the events of Black Tuesday, he says, which gave him added impetus not only to excel in broadcast journalism, but to work toward reaching the top.

With that kind of goal-setting and an indomitable drive which is characteristic of Eleutherans, Calsey Johnson, spared no effort in amassing as much knowledge about broadcast journalism as quickly as possible. He says that News Editor, Miss Heather Woods-Krohn, played a major role in his success. When the "going was rough," she was his source of strength. However, on his own initiative, he enrolled in a journalism correspondence course under the auspices of the British Broadcasting Corporation, which he successfully completed. The course included News Writing, Feature Writing and Broadcasting.

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He recalls, "That course was very helpful to me in those early days; it gave me a clear and basic understanding of the idiosyncrasies of the craft."

He states, " The first important break in my career came in 1966,when I traveled to Kingston, Jamaica, to cover the 8<sup>th</sup> British Empire and Commonwealth Games. In those days, a Reporter covered everything: hard News as well as Sports. That same year, the News Editor, Heather Woods-Krohne, who was English, left The Bahamas with her husband, the late Raleigh Krohne, to take up residence in Portugal. Prior to her resignation, she recommended to the management of ZNS, General Manager, Mr. "Rusty" Bethel, and Assistant General Manager, Mr. Jack Dodge, that I be appointed Acting News Editor. ZNS' management accepted the recommendation of Miss Woods-Krohne and I was appointed Acting News Editor. After that, I was attached for three months to the Radio and Television facilities of ZBM in Hamilton, Bermuda."

In 1969, Calsey was awarded a two-year in-service scholarship to study Broadcast Journalism and Radio/Television Production at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, Toronto, Canada. On his return in 1971, he was appointed News Director.

In 1972, he conceived and hosted the Radio programme "Contract," with Prime Minister Pindling as guest, answering questions by members of the local press. In that year, he also inaugurated "Tell It Like It Is," a one-hour programme with Cabinet Ministers as guests, answering questions submitted by the public, about their ministries. He also hosted the programme, "Action Line."

In 1972, he was chosen by the Broadcasting Corporation to launch ZNS' Northern Service located in Freeport, Grand Bahama. The station provided local programming for Abaco, Bimini and Grand Bahama, networking for News. At midnight, it joined the corporation's other Radio stations, ZNS-1 and ZNS-2 in Nassau.

Mr. Johnson worked in Freeport for two years as Station Manager, and he maintained the same title when he returned to Nassau in 1974. A short time later, he was promoted to General Manager of the Corporation and Mr. Charles Carter was elevated to Deputy General Manager This followed the resignation of the late Mr. Walter N. Wisdom who served as General Manager.

However, in 1978, Radio and Television were separated, with Mr. Charles Carter becoming General Manager of Television and Mr. Johnson,General Manager of Radio. Mr. Johnson again became General Manager of the corporation following the resignation of Mr. Carter, who entered the Bahamian political arena.

Mr. Johnson regards the introduction of Television Broadcasting to The Bahamas on July 10<sup>th</sup>, 1977, as "a high point" in his career. Later that year, on October 20<sup>th</sup>, ZNS-TV was officially opened by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, on one of her Official Visits to the Bahamas.

Mr. Johnson, who served as Chairman of the Broadcasting Corporation since 2002, admits that TV has had its share of growing pains. He accepts that there is a cost factor which the corporation must always be sensitive to. He maintains, "As the facility, being publicly-owned as it is, does not place "profit" as a high priority item, meeting a public service need overrides profit."

When asked recently, "Have there been any low points in your career with BCB?" he replied, "I did not see any real low points. I reached the stage where I could regard them all as high points. There were some problems in my early years of broadcasting, but I have learned from mistakes and problems."

Mr. Johnson's tenure with the corporation and as Head of the News Department for many years, has afforded him the opportunity of covering many important News Events affecting The Bahamas. In 1968, he covered the Official Visit of Prime Minister Pindling (Formerly Premier ) to Boston,



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Massachusetts. On that visit, the Prime Minister addressed the Massachusetts Legislature.

In 1969, he covered the Prime Minister's visits to New York, London and Toronto. The purpose of those visits was for the official opening of Tourist Offices in those cities. He also covered the conferring of the Knighthood of Sir Lynden Pindling by the Queen at Buckingham Palace.

In 1972, he spent the entire month of December in London, covering the Independence Talks, providing daily live broadcasts to the Bahamian audience. The Bahamas gained independence from Britain July 10<sup>th</sup>, 1973.

In October, 1985, he covered Prime Minister Pindling's Address to the United Nations, New York, on the occasion of that world body's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.

During his fourteen (14) years as General Manager of the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas, Mr. Johnson also served as Vice President of the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association (CBA).

In 1988, the corporation hosted the Caribbean Broadcasting Association's Conference in New Providence. Mr. Johnson refers to this as, "an exciting time" in his career as General Manager.

Other exciting experiences in Mr. Johnson's career include the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Radio in The Bahamas, which was celebrated in May, 1986. The Anniversary Service was broadcast live from Harvest Time Tabernacle in Alice Town, Eleuthera, the birthplace of Mr. Johnson. This gave much prominence to Mr. Johnson as well as to the community. Senior Pastor of the Church, the late Reverend Doctor P.A. Gibson, preached the sermon. Also bringing greetings at that event were the late Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Sir Lynden Pindling, and Member of Parliament for the Governor's Harbour constituency, the Honourable Philip Bethel

This came about because at that time, Harvest Time was on the air longer than any other religious denominations in the history of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas. A large delegation of staff members traveled to Eleuthera for this service.

In the 1992 General Elections, Mr. Johnson was nominated as the Progressive Liberal Party's candidate for the Bamboo Town Constituency, but was unsuccessful in his bid to win this seat. However, he was appointed as a Senator in 1992 and served in this capacity until 1998.

In December 2003, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate degree (Doctor of Humane Letters) from Richmond, Virginia Seminary for his "invaluable contribution" in the field of broadcasting and the church.

Among his other civic contributions, he is a founding member of the Nassau Jaycees and a former Toastmaster. Professionally, he serves on the Management Committee of the Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU), formed in 1969.

Mr. Johnson is currently the Vice-President of Sales and Marketing at CLICO (Bahamas) Limited) formerly British Fidelity Assurance Limited).

He is a member of Rhodes Memorial Methodist Church, Montrose Avenue, Nassau, and currently serves as the Vice President of the Methodist Church (MCCA), (the highest office a lay person can hold) in the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas, a Conference with thousands of members scattered throughout the Caribbean, Central and South America.

## MARY L. CULMER

### Vice Chairman

Born at Simms, Long Island, Mrs. Culmer resides in Freeport, Grand Bahama. She and her husband, Sanford, have three (3) children.

She is a graduate of St. John's College, Nassau and the College of the Bahamas, Freeport. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master in Business Administration from Nova Southeastern University. Her certifications include the following: Professional in Human Resources (PHR) by the Society for Human Resource Management, Certified Hospitality Educator (CHE), and Certified Hospitality Department Trainer (CHDT) by the Education Institute of the American Hotel and Motel Association.

Prior to its closure, Mrs. Culmer was employed with the Royal Oasis Golf Resort and Casino for twenty-seven (27) years, and held the position of Director of Human Resources. Additionally, she has served in leadership positions in a number of other organizations. She is a Past President of the Parents Teachers Association, (PTA), Mary Star of the Sea Catholic School, the Yellow Elder ITC Club, the Bahamas Council V, ITC and the Anglican Church Women, Church of the Ascension, Lucaya. She is also a founding Member and Past Chairman of the annual Debutante Ball Committee, and a Charter President of the Grand Bahama Human Resources Association.

She has been recognized as "Professional Woman of the Year," by the Grand Bahama Business and Professional Women's Association. Additionally, she is the recipient of the Human Resources Award by The Bahamas Human Resources Association, Nassau.

In her quiet moments, Mrs. Culmer enjoys the tranquility of nature.





## **SHARON A. STUART**

Sharon Stuart is a proud graduate of the College of The Bahamas, where she obtained an Associate of Arts degree (AA) in English and French.

She is also a graduate of the American University in Washington, D.C., and holds Bachelor of Arts degrees (BA) in Economics and International Studies.

Relentless in her commitment to expand her knowledge, Ms. Stuart has successfully completed various international courses in the field of Finance. Presently, she is pursuing an Executive Masters in Business Administration degree (EMBA) at the University of Miami.

For the past eight years, Ms. Stuart, has worked in the field of private banking. She is employed in the Portfolio Management Department of Private Investment Bank Limited. This experience continues to afford her the opportunity to liaise with clients in the international community, in the execution of various private banking services.

Prior to entering the banking sector, Ms. Stuart, worked in the civil service where she served as an Assistant Economist at the Ministry of Finance and Planning.

Ms. Stuart is actively involved in various ministries of her church, Abundant Life Bible Chapel. Her passion for helping others has led her to assist in various community organizations and events. One of her favourite verses of the Bible is Colossians 3:23 which reads, "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as unto the Lord, and not unto men." For this reason, Ms. Stuart, is indeed grateful for the opportunity to serve her country as a member of the Board of the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas and to work along with the staff to further develop the corporation in its mandate to provide service to the Bahamian people.

# **BUILDERS-TODAY'S PERSONNEL**

# EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT 2006



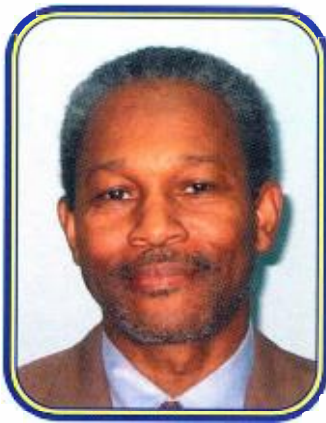
**Mr. ANTHONY FOSTER**  
GENERAL MANAGER



**Dr. YVETTE STUART**  
Senior Deputy General Manager



**Mrs. ROSE BRADSHAW**  
Deputy General Manager / Compliance Officer



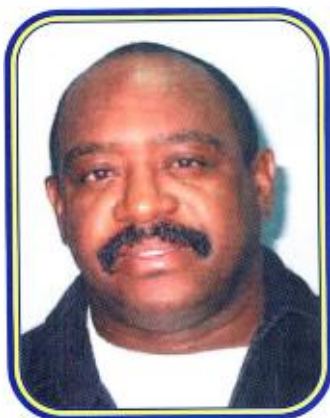
**Mr. GARTH FRASER**  
Financial Controller



**Mrs. CYNTHIA HALL**  
DGM Human Resources/Training



**Mr. PICEWELL FORBES**  
DGM / Radio



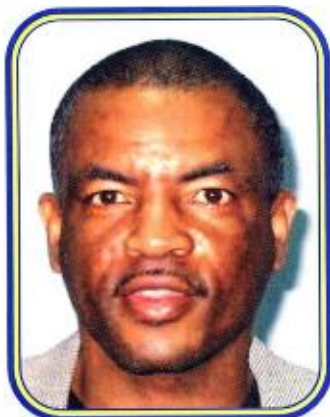
**Mr. MARTIN ALBURY**  
DGM/Public Broadcasting



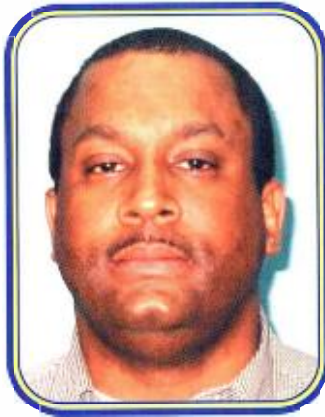
**Mr. DAROLD MILLER**  
DGM/ Sales & Marketing



**Mrs. DIANA SWANN**  
DGM/Northern Service



**Mr. CARLTON SMITH**  
DGM/News



**Mr. EARL THOMPSON**  
DGM/ Plant & Maintenance



**Miss. ANGELA BAIN**  
Senior Manager /Television

## **MR. ANTHONY FOSTER**

### **General Manager**

Mr. Anthony Foster, a veteran broadcaster, has been employed with the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas for the past thirty (30) years. He joined the corporation in 1974 and hosted the "Breakfast Show" on ZNS-1 from 1975-1987. He has served in various capacities including Production Director in 1983, Programme Director in 1985, Manger of Radio Operations and Programming in 1995, Assistant General Manager, Northern Service in Freeport, Grand Bahama in 1997 and was appointed to the post of General Manager in 2003.

Being a firm believer in self-development, he enrolled in various Radio and Television Courses at the British Broadcasting Corporation in London in 1989 and at the Canadian Institute of Training in Public Broadcasting in Hull, Canada. He is a member of the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association and the Caribbean Broadcasting Union.

Mr. Foster is also a member of St. Mary's Anglican Church, and St. Anne's Lodge No. 1751 Scottish Constitution.

## **CYNTHIA LOUISE MAJOR-HALL**

### **Deputy General Manager/Human Resources & Training**

Cynthia Hall was born in Nassau. A former resident of Hay Street, she attended the Western Senior School. In 1965, she graduated from the Government High School.

On completion of Commercial Studies at the Nassau Technical College and the College of The Bahamas, she began her career at the Ministry of Works in 1968 as a clerk to the Cost Accountant, Mrs. Vernice Symonette (deceased). In 1970, she was successful in securing employment with the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas as a cashier. During this period, Mr. Wendell Roberts was the Accountant.

Since that time, she has served the Corporation in a number of Departments including Accounts, Human Resources and Internal Audit.

Always in pursuit of self-development, Mrs. Hall, completed Courses in Management sponsored by the Public Service Training Centre and the College of The Bahamas. She holds a diploma in Employment Law from the McHari Institute and has attended seminars hosted by the Institute of Internal Auditors in Nassau and Florida. Presently, she serves as Deputy General Manager for Human Resources and Industrial Relations.

As a natural people's person, Mrs. Hall relates well with all members of staff – always giving of her best. She believes that for her, the past in the Broadcasting Corporation has been educational, the present enjoyable and she looks forward to the future with great anticipation.

She is married to Edgar Hall, an employee of the Ministry of Finance. They are proud of their children, Kevin (Theresse), Robert (Janice), Camille and Andrew, and their six grandchildren.

A member of Salem Union Baptist Church, she is fully involved in various organizations and activities of her church. Her hobbies include reading, gardening and sewing.



## **MR. PICEWELL FORBES**

### **Deputy General Manager/Radio**

Mr. Picewell Forbes, was born in Andros, one of the Family Islands in The Bahamas.

He has a Certificate in Electronics from the College of The Bahamas, C.O.B. While there, he also studied Mass Communication and Political Science. Continuing to improve his qualifications, he enrolled in advanced Radio Courses at the Mona Campus of the University of the West Indies, Jamaica and received a Diploma. In 1991, he completed a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of the West Indies. In December, 2004, he received a Master of Science degree in Human Resource Management from Nova Southeastern University.

Mr. Forbes holds the position of Deputy General Manager/Radio at the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas. This gives him responsibility for all activities in the department. He also works directly with the General Manager and the personnel in the Sales and Marketing Department in developing strategic plans and new products for the corporation. Additionally, he is required to assist with the corporation's plans for extended coverage of Special Events in the Family Islands.

An experienced Broadcaster, Mr. Forbes is the former Host of the popular "Good Morning Bahamas Show" which is aired on the Bahamas Radio Network. Currently, he is the Host of two Radio Talk Shows, "Speak-up," the first such open-line show on ZNS Radio discussing important national, regional and international issues, and "Focal Point," a community-interest show which highlights investigative interviews. He is widely recognized as the Host of the popular local Television series, "Da Down Home Show."

Over the years, he has attended a number of seminars and workshops sponsored by the "CEO Network" and the Bahamas Business Outlook. He has participated in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP Conference on Black Leadership held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the National Association of Broadcasters Conferences in Las Vegas, Nevada in 1996, 1999 and 2005. Mr. Forbes has also completed leadership courses sponsored by the Bahamas Communications and Public Officers Union that were held in Jamaica, Barbados and Antigua.

A member of the Church of God, Mr. Forbes is actively involved in community activities and is the recipient of numerous awards for his involvement and leadership. He is affectionately called, "Da Home Town Boy."

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# **MR. MARTIN BERNARD ALBURY**

## **Deputy General Manager/Public Broadcasting**

Martin Albury was born in Gregory Town, Eleuthera, on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 1959. He is the 3<sup>rd</sup> of ten (10) children born to Mr. Cyril and Mrs. Willamae Albury.

He received his early education at the Gregory Town All Age School. He attended St. John's College in Nassau, Preston Albury High School in Rock Sound, Eleuthera and the Governor's Harbour Senior High School. He graduated from high school in 1977.

After completing his high school education, Mr. Albury was employed as a Proof Reader at the Nassau Guardian Newspaper. Because of his interest in journalism, within six (6) months, he was transferred from the Production Department to the Editorial Department under the guidance of Editor, Mr. Leon Turnquest. Over a six-year period, Mr. Albury was able to move up the ranks from a Cub Reporter to a Sports Writer and then as Sports Editor.

After recognizing the need to improve his qualifications in the field of journalism, Mr. Albury attended St. Augustine's College in Raleigh, North Carolina from 1983-1986, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Communications.

Upon graduating from college, he was employed at the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas in 1987. He started his career as a News Reporter and moved up the ranks to News Editor and later News Director from 1996-1999.

In 1999, Mr. Albury was transferred to Freeport, Grand Bahama, to head the Northern Service as Director. While at the Northern Service, in 2001, he was appointed to the post of Deputy General Manager. He returned to headquarters in New Providence in 2003 to become the Special Assistant to the General Manager. He currently serves as Deputy General Manager with responsibility for the Public Broadcasting and Local Programming Units and the Parliamentary Channel.

Mr. Albury's professional qualifications include a diploma in Creative and Professional Writing and Editing, a Fellowship with the Commonwealth Foundation in London, England, and an attachment with the British Broadcasting Corporation, BBC, 1994. He is also a member of the Sigma Tau Delta National English Honour Society of the United States and a member of the Squires Lodge No. 201 of the Modern Free and Accepted Masons.

He is married to the former Brenda Cooper-Bowe and is the father of three children, Briand, Lakeisha and Brendan. He is a member of St. Gregory's Roman Catholic Church, Gregory Town, Eleuthera. He enjoys fishing, farming, reading and sports.

## **MR. DAROLD MILLER**

### **Deputy General Manager/Sales & Marketing**

Mr. Darold Miller was born in Colonel Hill, Crooked Island, on July 21<sup>st</sup>, 1955 to Henry and Willamae Miller. Later, the family relocated to Nassau, where Darold attended the Claridge Primary and the Government High Schools. During this period, students were required to write and pass an entrance examination before attending schools like Government High.

When he was nine (9) years old, Darold passed the entrance examination for Government High School, but was too young to attend because it only accepted students ten (10) years and older. Therefore, he had to wait one year before starting high school. He graduated from the Government High School at age fifteen (15) and started his career in Journalism and Communication at the Nassau Guardian, under the tutelage of the late Leon Turnquest and Mr. Fred Sturup.

For a number of years, Mr. Miller worked in the News Department at ZNS. He has also spent a few years in private broadcasting at LOVE 97. Later, he returned to ZNS, where he now serves as Deputy General Manager of the Marketing and Sales Department. Mr. Miller is regarded as “a fearless broadcaster,” who performs his job with a passion for excellence. As the Host of the popular Radio Talk Show, “Immediate Response,” he is particularly interested in the academic and professional development of young people. Additionally, Mr. Miller provides Commentaries and Reports on major national events. He outlined his mission as such, “To keep listeners and viewers up-to-date on topical national issues and allow them the opportunity to air their views and to hear from expert guests.”

Recently, he launched a new “Shining Star Show” to identify and nurture young amateur talent in the entertainment industry.

## **DIANA SWANN**

### **Deputy General Manager/Northern Service**

A native of Fresh Creek, Andros, Diana Wilson-Swann, was born to proud parents, Alvis Wilson and Adella Ernet-Wilson, both deceased.

She attended the Mary Star of the Sea Catholic School, the Grand Bahama Catholic High School and the Grand Bahama Business School.

She has been honoured by various organizations, namely the "CEO Network," the Ministry of Education and the Margaret McDonald Foundation.

Her name is synonymous with ZNS. Many persons refer to her as "Ms. Northern Service," but contrary to popular belief, Diana Wilson-Swann, was not always in the media. She began her work experience in the early 1970's as a file clerk and typist at The Bahamas Oil Refining Company, BORCO.

A passion for writing, though, has always been a part of Diana. Her life-long career in Journalism began in 1978, when she was interviewed for a position at the Freeport News. The late Richardson Campbell, then editor of the local daily, hired her on the spot and sent her to the court-house on her first assignment. Some of her noted assignments while at the Freeport News include the visit of the Pope and the State Funeral of the late Governor General, Sir Milo Butler.

Diana loved the job, and her passion for it grew daily. After a two-year stint at the Freeport News, she decided to further her career and moved into Broadcast Journalism. She began her tenure in 1980 as a News Reporter and spent twelve (12) years covering numerous local, national and international assignments for ZNS, including the State Funeral of Sir Cecil Wallace Whitfield, the Opening of Parliament, the Queen's Visits and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. She became known for her aggressive and no-nonsense style of reporting and in 1989, she earned the top post in the News Department in the Northern Service as Deputy News Director.

When television was officially introduced to Freeport in 1990, she became the first News Anchor at the Northern Service, an historic feat for a Bahamian female journalist. This experience has provided her the opportunity to host various television and radio programmes geared at informing and educating Bahamians about events in the community.

In 1993, she ventured into the marketing aspect of broadcasting. Her zeal for the profession enabled her to persevere, and she began to put ZNS Northern Service on the map, by generating successful marketing strategies for Radio 810 AM in Freeport, Abaco and Bimini. She later became Assistant Director of the Marketing Department and can be credited with making ZNS a household name on the island of Abaco.

She was married to John Alexander Swann, now deceased. She resides in Freeport, and is the mother of three children, Gevin, Garrette and Jondee and the grandmother of two adorable boys, L.J. and Juanye. In her leisure time, she enjoys being around close friends, quiet time, dancing and reading.

## **MR. EARL V. THOMPSON Jr.**

### **Deputy General Manager/Plant & Maintenance**

Earl Vincente' Thompson Jr. was born on July 7<sup>th</sup>, 1962 to Earl and Venecia Thompson of Chippingham, New Providence.

He attended Xavier's Lower School and graduated in 1973. A 1979 graduate of St. Augustine's College, he obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Management from St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota.

Mr. Thompson has served as a Credit Manager at the former Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, now First Caribbean Bank, a Customer Service Supervisor at First Home Banking Centre, and as a Brand (Marketing) Manager at Bethell Robertson Company Limited, representing the IDV/Heublein House.

His career in Broadcasting started in 1994 at Jones Communication, where he served as Sales and Marketing Manager for LOVE 97 FM. In 1996, he was promoted to the post of Assistant General Manager, Marketing for Jones Communications, LOVE 97 FM, the Bahama Journal and Caribah Magazine. In 2001, Mr. Thompson joined the Broadcasting Corporation of the Bahamas as a Consultant and was later appointed Deputy General Manager, Marketing and Sales, Radio and Television Programming. In March, 2003, he was reassigned as Deputy General Manager/ Marketing. Currently, he holds the position of Deputy General Manager/ Plant, Maintenance and Security.

He is married to a former Miss Bahamas, Ava Burke, and they have three children, Earl III, Vincent and Averi'. He enjoys sports, meeting people and traveling.

## **MS. ANGELA BAIN**

### **Deputy General Manager/Television**

A 1977 graduate of Aquinas College, New Providence, Ms. Angela Bain, joined the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas as a Clerk on July 11<sup>th</sup>, 1977. Months later, she was instrumental in the formation of the Television Library under the leadership of Mrs. Ruby Simmons.

She has attended Film Markets sponsored by the Caribbean Broadcasting Union in Trinidad, Curacao and Barbados. Additionally, she has represented the corporation at the Caribbean Film Market in Florida and the National Association of Television Program Executives, NATPE, Conventions in Las Vegas and New Orleans.

In 1989, Ms. Bain served as Coordinator of the Secretariat at the Broadcasting Corporation for the First Bahamas Games. She was given similar responsibilities for the Bahamas Games held in 1991, 1998 and 2001.

In 1993, she was promoted to the post of Assistant Director/Television. She became an Administrative Assistant in 1998. In 2003, she served as Assistant Deputy General Manager/Television. She currently serves as Senior Manager/Television, having received that promotion in 2005.

She is the mother of one child, Jemma De'Andra Hepburn, a graduate of St. Augustine's College, New Providence, who is presently pursuing a degree in Criminal Justice at Prairie View University, Texas.

# MIDDLE MANAGERS/Nassau Headquarters



Earlene Adderley



Dwight Armbrister



Derek V. Bain



Sherman Brown



Doreth Campbell



Moses Cargill



Eugene Cartwright



Lithera Coakley



Alx Curry



Ricardo Davis



Rodney Davis



Sandra Duncombe-Major



Elaine Ferguson



Paul Fernander



Roscoe Gibson



Keith Gomez



Judy Hamilton



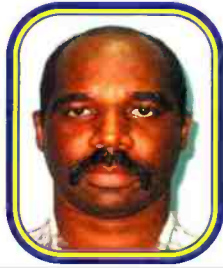
George Harris



Admirah Hutchinson



Elvira Johnson



Christopher Knowles



Mario Lightbourne



Gordon Lowe



Darren Meadows



Anthony Newbold



Francine Pierre-Louis



Opal Roach



Donald Rolle



Charles Russell



Kenneth Sands



Blossie Smith



Phill Smith



Betty Thompson



Tedana Thompson



Colin Trotman Jr.



Keith Tucker





Dwain Wallace



Sharnett Ferguson



Jeffrey Hepburn



Stanley Pinder



Bianca Ferguson



Patrice Pinder



Erma Albury



Sharon Albury



Vaughn Albury



Julian Anderson Rolle



Patrice Clarke



Beverly Marie Curry



Clunis Devaney



Harris Gibson



Linda Sands



Ronald Hepburn



Whitfield Hutcheson



Angela Kemp



William McCartney



Julian Reid



Jeffrey Rodgers



Vivian V. Arnett



Brad Hanna



Andrea Jenoure



Portia Johnson



Sandra Judy Johnson



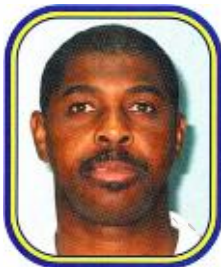
Betty Roberts



Maria Rox



Unetha H. Sherman



Ashley Taylor



Diane Rahming



Craig Rolle



Ann Fowler

## EMPLOYEES / Nassau Headquarters



Vernon Bullard



Kendall Carroll



Shena A. Carroll



Keno Burrows



Indira Clarke



Arthreal Cambridge



Joycelyn Szasz



Anthony Coakley



Christian Benson



Linda Colebrooke



Theresa Colebrooke



Porcia Cooper



Monique Cornish



Ladaunne Davis



Lashena Forbes



Dorlan Curtis



Garnell Dames



Michelle Clarke



Audrey Deveaux



Robert Deveaux



Vincent Williams



Trevor Francis



Vincent Gaitor



Gregory Farrington



Ulease Ferguson-Paul



Charlene Ferguson



Anthony Ferguson



Fred Ferguson



Shereice Ferguson



Marcellus Hall



Lawson Gray



Kendal Johnson



Charlene Johnson



Eleanor Johnson



Gary Johnson



Judy P. Johnson



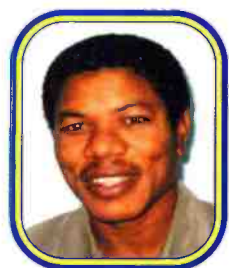
Julian Gene Gibson



Marvin Gibson



Dennis A. Gomez



Anthony Johnson



Emma Louise Kemp



Christina King



Berthlyn Knowles



Sean Innis



Kirk Johnson



Shelique Johnson



Teazel Lockhart



Andrea Lightbourne



Melissa Knowles



Pauline Knowles



Diane Lafleur



Carletha Major



Laura Lowe-Wright



Edison Meadows



Geraldine Marrett



Rudolph Minnis



Deon Morris



Jamal Moss



Ron Moss



Ricardo Mott



Pamela Miller



Shenique Miller



Edison Minnis



Margaret McKay



Eleanor McCoy



Sheryl Cleare-Newbold



Kevin Musgrove



Neil Benjamin



Kayla Nixon



Terry Nottage



Carla Palmer



Jaditte Pierre



Coral Pratt



Patricia Pratt



Samantha Pratt



Berkley Rahming



Marjorie Reckley



Shema Poitier



Angela Riley



Dorothy Roberts



Allison Rolle



Norris Rahming



Rudolph Rahming



Takiya D. Rahming



Kenneth Adderley



Virgil Albury



Robert Thompson



Brett Archer



Duke Brice



Nikita Wilmore



Anthea Rolle



Jeannie Scavella



Cranston Rolle



Christopher Saunders



Jason Saunders



Sophia L. Saunders



Charles Zonicle



Maureen Charlton



Victoria Demeritte



Arthur Greene



Inez Smith



Keishla Smith



Lynden Smith



Donrellio Russell



Helen Thompson



Ricardo Thompson



Deborah Sears



William Seymour



Janet Taylor



Sidney Smith



Shervin Stuart



Robert Moss



Regis Diana Williams



Clint Watson



Janet Thurston



Vaughnique Tooté



Timothy L. Wilson



Althea Williamson



Stephen Williams



Paul A. Symonette

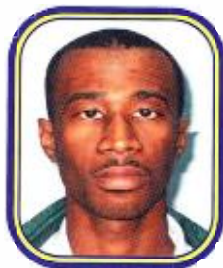




Arnette Wilson



Saraan Gibson



Kadesh Wilchcombe



Craig Woods



Evenette Gardiner



Yvette Fife



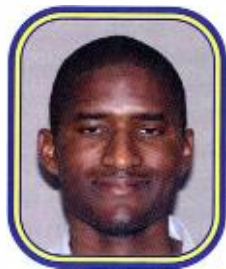
Alexandria Newbold



Gary Black



Antonio K. Coakley



Anntoinne Robinson



Cindy Smith



Tony Sawyer



Jacklin Bullard



Kevin Armbrister



Randy Knowles



Desmond Saunders



Kendal Johnson

## TELEVISION

ZNS provides television programming via a terrestrial transmitter Channel 13 and distributed by Cable Bahamas on Channel 11 in New Providence and selected Family Islands by downlinking the signal from the corporation's satellite earthstation at 3<sup>rd</sup> Terrace East Centreville. The Parliamentary Channel (Cable Channel 40) is distributed by ZNS and Cable Bahamas in New Providence, Grand Bahama and selected Family Islands in The Bahamas.

### New Providence

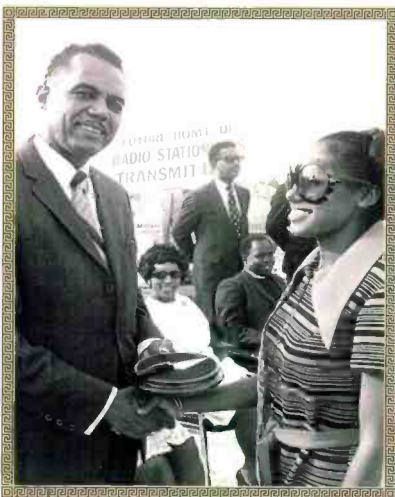
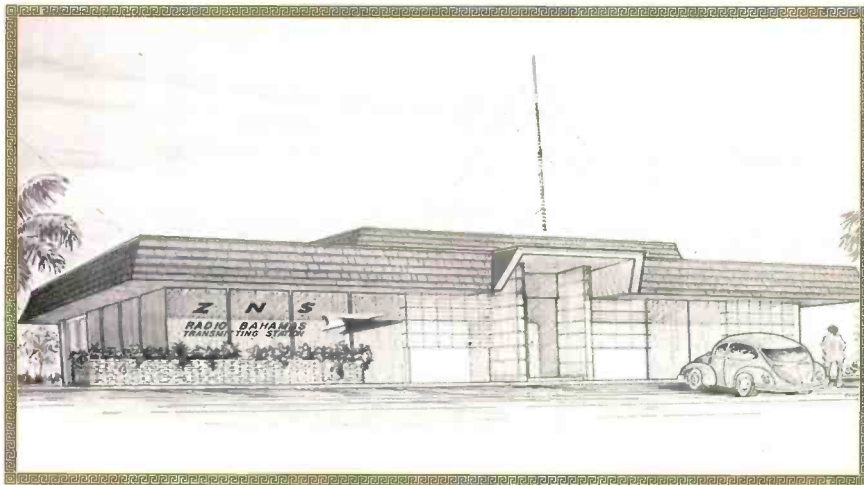
ZNS TV Network  
Channel 13  
Cable Channel 11

Parliamentary Channel  
Cable Channel 40

### Grand Bahama

ZNS TV Network  
Cable Channel 11

Headed by the Director of Engineering, Mr. Donald Rolle, the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas employs an experienced team of engineers. The Deputy Director of Transmissions, Mr. Keith Tucker, is primarily responsible for the corporation's transmitters.



PHOTOS Courtesy: Mr. Derek V. Bain / ZNS Archives

# **LONGEST-SERVING EMPLOYEES**

## ROSE FRANCINA BRADSHAW

"No one can really pull you up very high - you lose your grip on the rope. But on your own feet you can climb mountains."

Louis Brandeis

Rose Francina Bradshaw is the last of nine (9) children born to the union of Howard Granville and Adelaide Elizabeth "Daisy" Smith. Both parents, who were born in Eleuthera, are now deceased. Her father was a surrey driver, while her mother, was a mid-wife.

Because of the professionalism and decorum of her father, while contributing to the tourism industry, and the impeccable condition of his surrey, he was selected by the Ministry of Tourism to drive Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip during their first official visit to The Bahamas in 1966.



She is married to Mr. Bursell R. Bradshaw, realtor, musician, photographer and well-known avid sports enthusiast. This union was blessed with five (5) children: Bursell Rudolph Jr., Sheldon Montagu (deceased), Donyale Elizabeth Bradshaw-Smith, Natalia Ronique Bradshaw-Parson of Harrisonburg, Virginia and Nadia Roselle. Donyale is married to Mr. Kevin Smith, a contractor, while Natalia is married to the Reverend Derrick Parson, an ordained Methodist Minister, presently serving as Director of Campus Ministry of the James Madison University (JMU). She and her husband are also the proud grand-parents of four: K'Donya, Tiana, Sheldon and Joshua.

Mrs. Bradshaw has provided more than three decades of loyal and outstanding service to the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas. Following two years in the Office of the then Governor-General, His Excellency Sir Ralph Grey, she was personally recruited to ZNS by General Manager, the late Mr. H.R. "Rusty" Bethel, as his Confidential Secretary on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 1968 until his retirement in 1970. She subsequently served in this position to another General Manager, the late Mr. Walter N. Wisdom.

Although Mrs. Bradshaw's desire was always to excel in whatever she did, at that time, she had no idea that one day she would excel in various positions in the Government-owned corporation to assume a top role in leadership.

As she moved up the rank and file of the corporation, Mrs. Bradshaw, affectionately known as "Mrs. Brad," or "Mrs. B," took on the tasks of Administrative Assistant and Special Executive Assistant to several Executive Chairmen; Assistant Secretary, then Secretary to the Board of Directors; Human Resources Manager and Assistant General Manager with responsibility for Human Resources. Currently, she serves as Deputy General Manager/Administration/Compliance Officer. Additionally, she serves as Secretary to the Board and Special Executive Assistant to the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Dr. Calsey W. Johnson, J.P.

Mrs. Bradshaw's professional affiliations include the following: In 1986, she became a Licentiate member of the Faculty of Secretaries and Administrators in Surrey, England; and a full member of the Institute of Professional Managers and Administrators of Jersey, Britain, in 1989. In June 1990, she became a member of the American Management Association, while in 1992, the Society of Human Resource Management, Alexandria, Virginia, welcomed her as a member, and in March, 1997, it was the icing on the cake, as she became a member of the International Who's Who of Professionals.

In addition, she has, over the years, attended numerous local and national conferences and seminars. She began her education at Our Lady's Catholic School in Nassau and also attended Xavier's College, West Bay Street. Following graduation, she attended Aquinas College, where she began her technical training. Having an insatiable desire for learning and upgrading her skills, she continued her studies at the Nassau Technical College, where she earned, among others, several secretarial certificates, including a First Class pass in the Pitman Private Secretarial Duties 11 (the first Bahamian to receive this distinction). In 1988, she completed an Associate of Arts degree in Business Administration, majoring in Management, at the College of The Bahamas. She later pursued this interest to the Bachelor of Arts level at Sojourner-Douglas College, Baltimore, Maryland, obtaining her degree in June, 1994.

While her quiet, calming words of wisdom have been known to soothe "troubled or irate employee," she maintains an "open door policy." It is also her sometimes indulgent, but patient manner and strong listening, counseling and leadership skills, among other qualities, that have made her effective in promoting a positive, productive work environment at ZNS over the years.

Mrs. Bradshaw, "a stickler for excellence," has always, and continues to encourage members of staff to go the extra mile, and turn the other cheek, or seek to develop themselves through further education. While she also believes in "turning the other cheek," she also firmly agrees with the quotes, by two philosophers. The first quote is, "Never apologize for showing feeling. When you do you apologize for truth." The other quote is, "Never for the sake of peace and quiet, deny your own experience and convictions."

Her strong Christian virtues are evident not only in her overall concern for the staff, but extend into the community. An example is the annual Thanksgiving Luncheon held by ZNS for the elderly of St. Matthew's Day Care Centre, New Providence (and now other homes for the aged). She initiated this event under the tenure of Chairman of the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas, the Hon. V. Alfred Gray, who shared the vision. For nine (9) years, she spearheaded the event with unswerving commitment. The year 2005 marked the Fourteenth year of this event which continues under the auspices of the Human Resources Department and is enthusiastically supported by the employees of the corporation.

As one can guess from the de'cor of her office, Mrs. Bradshaw's hobbies include interior decorating and gardening. Among her other interests are reading, social and civic work.

## ELIZABETH GRANT

Elizabeth Janice Grant was born on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1956, in West End, Grand Bahama.

She attended the Grand Bahama Business School in Freeport, headed by Mr. Felix Hyatt.

She recalls, "After successfully completing my studies, Mr. Hyatt accompanied me to ZNS-3 where I completed an application form. The Personnel Officer was Pam Granger. Immediately, I was interviewed by Mr. Walter Wisdom and Station Manager, Mr. Reg Smith. The rest is history."

Since being hired on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1975, as a Receptionist and Clerk in the Community Announcements Department, "Liz," as she is affectionately called, has served in several positions at the Northern Service. These positions include Junior Secretary, Secretary, Traffic Clerk, Administrative Assistant, Senior Supervisor, Assistant Director and Deputy Director/Marketing and Sales Department. She currently serves as Manager/ Marketing and Sales Department.



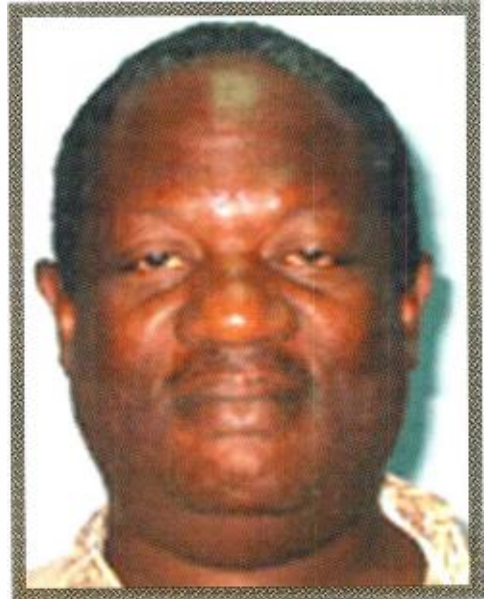
About the Northern Service, she writes, "I am still employed at ZNS simply because of my love for my job, the people I've had the privilege of working with, and the clients whom I serve and consider them as a part of my family." She is the longest-serving member of the Northern Service in Grand Bahama.

Ms. Grant is a member of Christ the King Anglican Church, Freeport, and the "Busy Bees Volunteer Group" at the Rand Memorial Hospital.

## MR. CRAIG ROLLE

Craig Rolle was born in Nassau on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 1952.

Prior to being employed at ZNS in 1969, Craig was fascinated about its equipment. In a recent interview, he said, "Every afternoon, I would come up to Centreville on my bicycle and peep through the window of the Studio and Control Room. I was about 12-13 years old at the time and was a student of Our Lady's Catholic School. I was curious and was always fascinated by the equipment at ZNS."



His love for ZNS and its staff grew rapidly. He recalled, "After seeing me on numerous occasions, they would sit and chat with me and allow me to come into the Studio to look around. Persons like Production Engineer, Jerry Smith, Engineer, Sam Hepburn, Announcer, Carl Bethel and the late Don Pritchard were around at that time. I also remember Calsey Johnson, Wilma Armbrister, Ed Bethel and Charles Carter making their contributions in the early days. At that time, about 20 persons were employed by ZNS. "Rusty" Bethel was the General Manager who hired me. I also recall persons like Louis Hanchell and the late Walter Wisdom."

A graduate of the Oakes Field Secondary School, Craig completed Evening Classes at the A.F. Adderley High School. At the age of seventeen (17), he was employed at ZNS as a messenger. Because he was well known to the staff, his adjustment to this environment was relatively easy. He would ride his Honda motorcycle to carry out his duties. In addition to serving as a messenger, Craig also worked as an "Operator" on ZNS Radio. ZNS 2 was a classical station at that time. It would sign on at 5:30 pm until midnight. Eventually, the air time was increased.

Later, Craig was assigned to the Production Room as a full-time Production Assistant. In those days, remote broadcasts were handled by the Engineering Department and eventually, they were taken over by the Programming Department. In 1973, Craig completed his first production job. This was a remote broadcast from Mount Carmel Baptist Church, Mason's Addition, New Providence, where the late Rev. Bob Bailey, served as Pastor.

The 1970's was an exciting period for Mr. Rolle. Due to the illness of one of the employees, he was given the opportunity to work the late night shift, "music til dawn." He is known as a hard working and dedicated employee and is the longest serving technician at ZNS.

He is the father of four children and calls his wife, Naomi, his "friend."



Family Island Stringers - 1976





**50<sup>th</sup>**

**ANNIVERSARY  
HIGHLIGHTS**

**SIR CLEMENT MAYNARD AND THELMA DEVEAUX CUTTING THE ANNIVERSARY CAKE**

*Photo Courtesy: Robert Thompson / ZNS Archives*

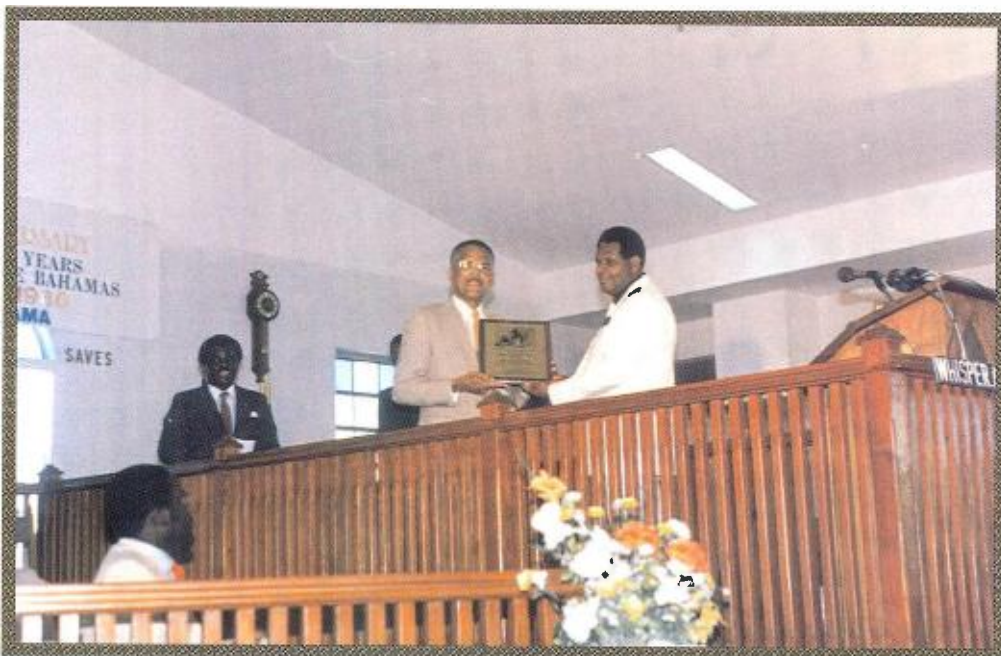
The Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas has always observed May 26<sup>th</sup> annually as the anniversary date of ZNS Radio, and has marked each significant anniversary with special programmes and events.

In celebration of its 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 1971, a special Souvenir Supplement was published in The Nassau Daily Tribune and The Nassau Guardian. Both copies are available at The Bahamas National Archives.

The Golden Anniversary celebration in 1986, was the grandest of all anniversaries and this significant milestone was celebrated as a national event. There were activities in Freeport involving the staff from Nassau and Grand Bahama in sporting events such as softball games played between the ZNS Hill Thrillers and local teams in Grand Bahama.

On Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 1986, a gala party was held by ZNS Northern Service, ZNS-3 on the lawn of the Kipling Building which it occupied. During the course of the evening, a presentation was made to the proprietor of the renowned "Blue Room," Mr. Basil Greene, for advertising on ZNS-3 longer than all the other sponsors. The Chairman of the Board, Mr. Charles Carter, made the presentation.

The following morning, there was corporate worship for the staff of ZNS at the Martin Town Community Church, which was chosen because of its record for sponsorship of a religious programme on ZNS-3, the Northern Service. In appreciation, Deputy Prime Minister, the Honourable Clement T. Maynard, presented a plaque to the late Reverend Alan Martin.



# 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CHURCH SERVICE IN GRAND BAHAMA





**PHOTOS** Courtesy:  
Robert Thompson / ZNS Archives



**Harvest Time Tabernacle**

The following weekend, members of staff were off to Eleuthera. Harvest Time Tabernacle in Alice Town was selected for the official Anniversary Church Service. This selection was made because when commercial broadcasting began, the Pastor and Founder of this church, the Reverend Doctor Percy A. Gibson, was the first to enter a contract for a weekly paid religious broadcast. "Harvest Time" has the distinction of being on the air without interruption from the inception of commercial broadcasting.

During that service, on Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 1986, which was broadcast live on ZNS Radio and recorded for a television programme, Doctor Gibson was honoured for his long and distinguished service as a religious broadcaster.

In attendance were the leaders of Church and State including the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Sir Lynden O. Pindling, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism with responsibilities for Broadcasting, the Honourable Clement Maynard and Mrs. Maynard, the Minister of Family Island Affairs, the Honourable Philip Bethel and Mrs. Bethel, the Minister of Youth and Sports, the Honourable Peter Bethell, the President of The Bahamas Christian Council, Bishop Albert Hepburn, Members of the Local Boards in the Governor's Harbour Constituency and staff of the Broadcasting Corporation.

The churches in Alice Town cancelled their normal services so that the entire community could attend this National Service of Thanksgiving and Appreciation.

In the Prime Minister's address to the congregation and the people of The Bahamas, he said, "Reverend Doctor P.A. Gibson, Reverend Doctor Albert Hepburn, Members of this Church, my brother Deputy Prime Minister and Mrs. Maynard, My Brother, the Minister of Family Island Affairs and Mrs. Bethel, to whom I would like to again offer congratulations on their Silver Jubilee – their 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary, Members of Parliament, Commissioners, Justices of the Peace, Mr. Deputy Chairman and Board members of the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas, Mr. General Manager and Mrs. Johnson, Broadcasters and staff members of ZNS–Radio and Television and my other fellow Bahamians.

This is Harvest Time Tabernacle and I think that we are in the midst of a harvest here this morning. The events of history spread over more than 50 years have all come together here in Alice Town this morning to bring about another miracle for all of us to witness and see.

The miracle making began centuries ago and I would like to bring to your attention this morning, for we sang of it just a moment or two ago:

“Our fathers, chained in prisons dark  
Were still in heart and conscience free  
and blest would be their children’s fate.  
Though they like them should die for thee.”  
(Samuel W. Faber)

When they came across the Atlantic in the bosom of deep dark ships they knew not what their fate would be; they did not know whether they would live to ever have children, but God spared the lives of some of them in America, some in South America, some in The Bahamas, some in the Caribbean and we are their offspring here today; miracle number one.

Chained in prison dark were still in heart and conscience free. There can be no harvest unless there is a sowing of the seed and some seed fall on good ground some seed inevitably falls on barren ground and we never hear of that seed again; but the seed that does fall on good ground is watered by the rain and warmed by the sun and that seed eventually blooms and bursts and brings forth fruit and that is why we are able to have a harvest.

Fifty years ago a seed was sown and the original voices of the broadcasters of ZNS through their information and News throughout all the islands of The Bahamas, lots of it fell on good soil – some of it fell on sea and some of it on barren ground, but all in all from Grand Bahama to Inagua, it fell on good ground and brought forth fruit until today we can meet here in Harvestime Tabernacle, gathered in all the truths of those fifty years of broadcasting and television in our nation at this time.

But there were some other events which no one knew that they would all come together here in Alice Town today.

There was a couple living in Alice Town who married and set up their home here and they had a son. They had no idea that that son would ever be a broadcaster but another miracle took place. That son turned out to be and is today the General Manager of the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas and we here can witness another miracle having taken place in our life time, and we can rejoice in that.

But there was another event in history which no one had any idea would all take place at this particular time. That the mother of the General Manager “just happened out of the clear blue sky” you would say, but there is always some hand which guides and plans these things. The mother of the General Manager just happened to be chosen as the “Mother of the Year” in this particular year when Calsey Johnson is the General Manager of ZNS; when ZNS is celebrating 50 years and everything simply fell into place and then it was all brought together. Can you imagine it? All of these events were brought together right here in Alice Town. Why? Again, because of a miracle.

A man, the Rev. Dr. Percy A. Gibson just happened to have started the first (paid) religious programme on ZNS years ago and here we are today and so is he and we are witnessing another miracle. My goodness! It is just impossible for us to fully understand how miracles happen, and we just record them as events, it takes some time for us to fully appreciate them really as miracles and I have tried to give you some examples today.



For all these miracles for all these events – for this tremendous harvest which has brought us all from far and near to celebrate this great thanksgiving feast today, we must all sing the praise of our Creator, our Almighty God.

I therefore wish to thank you finally for inviting me here this morning. I am so very glad that I did come to see so many of you here this morning representing a cross section of Eleuthera and in particular the Governor's Harbour Constituency.

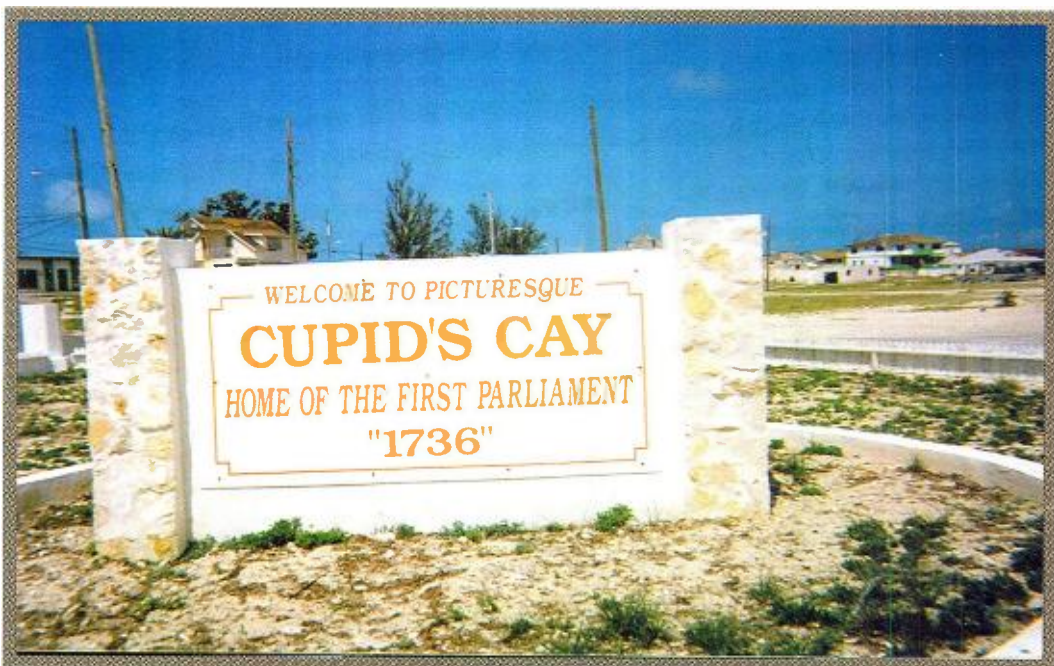
I thank you again. My congratulations to you all and may God bless you and pray for me continually."

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Clement Maynard (now Sir Clement) also brought remarks during that service. He told the congregation, "Blessed is the Nation whose God is The Lord.

Prime Minister, I should like to join you in celebrating some of these miracles you have been speaking about because about 340 years ago, some people decided that they should resist persecution and look for religious emancipation and freedom and came to this very island and named it freedom – Eleuthera – a great miracle too, and ever since, Eleutherians have felt proud of their heritage and felt that they are free and knowledgeable about politics, Christianity and what ever else you may wish to add.

What made matters worse, history shows that Governor's Harbour was the first capital of The Bahamas, but unfortunately, Governor's Harbour proved not to be a good harbour and so Nassau became the capital.

There was a time when the seats in the House of Assembly for Eleuthera outnumbered all the other islands and may have been three to four times the number for Nassau. I don't know if we can recall those days, Prime Minister. That would be a real miracle.



It is a pleasure for my family and me to join all of you in worship here in Alice Town today and I am pleased to have been afforded the opportunity to make a presentation to Dr. P.A. Gibson, who as a teacher in Nassau, tried to teach me at his Shirley Street residence Mathematics and English. My mother, who believed that the best teachers came out of Eleuthera, sent me to Dr. Gibson. "Go learn something," she said. I believe that she is pleased that I am able to give something back to Dr. Gibson today.

I was thinking that I had given him something already, when my only daughter married into his family, but my mother would say "that was not to Dr. Gibson." So I feel good for having this opportunity, a real pleasure Dr. Gibson.

Scripture says, "Let us now sing the praises of famous men. The heroes of our nation's history through whom the Lord has established his renown and revealed his majesty in each successive Age (Ecclesiasticus)."

Dr. Gibson, when the English poet, Sir Edwin Arnold wrote these words and I quote, "Use your gifts faithfully and they shall be enlarged; practice what you know and you shall attain higher knowledge," he had persons like yourself in mind. Dr. Gibson, you have been constant in your application to work. Your dedication, vision, commitment and perseverance are all well known examples in our country. Dr. Gibson you have brought all these good qualities to your radio programme, since 1957 and you continue with your HARVEST TIME programme, for I listened to you only this morning teaching your hearers from the word of God the good news of our soon coming king. Dr. Gibson, as an example ladies and gentlemen, teaches us to have the nerve that relaxes in the presence of work. The eyes that never blanch in the presence of duty; the thought that never wanders from elevating ideas if we are to become the masters of victory.

On behalf of the Government, the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas, Radio ZNS and Channel 13, I congratulate Dr. Gibson for his foresight and understanding of the art of communication and the use of Radio ZNS, for a sermon Ladies and Gentlemen, preached only to a few in the church no matter how gifted the preacher, will bless several more, but when broadcast to the wider audience will in like manner proportionally reach and bless larger numbers which will grow over time returning blessing and their rewards to the initiator.

I would like to think that this morning is a blessing to the Almighty God and a blessing to Dr. Gibson and a blessing to all of us here in this congregation and those in the far flung radio and television audiences.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the critics of the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas, Radio ZNS and Channel 13, say that there are too many religious broadcasts on the stations on Sundays. So then I say, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord. As it was in the beginning with the Eleutheran Adventurers, is now and ever shall be."

The Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas, ZNS, and Channel 13 are the most professional, most effective and best media of mass communication in the Commonwealth of the Bahamas and we are all proud of them.

We are proud of Dr. Gibson and the Harvest Time program and our association with him and we are happy about his long running religious program. And so at this time when we are celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of Broadcasting in the Bahamas we wish to congratulate, salute and recognize the contribution of Dr. Gibson, and so on behalf of the Board and the station I shall like to make this presentation. Before doing so, I would wish for you to read the inscription because I know you would like to know what is written on the plaque. It reads:

"Broadcasting Corporation of the Bahamas  
Special award for the longest program sponsored on ZNS-1  
Presented to the Rev. Dr. P.A Gibson of Harvest Time Tabernacle,  
Alice Town, Eleuthera In appreciation of dedicated and invaluable  
service on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of broadcasting in The Bahamas."

Congratulation Dr. Gibson."

Following his remarks, the Deputy Prime Minister presented a plaque to the Reverend Doctor P. A. Gibson in appreciation for having broadcast his programme "Harvest Time" continuously on ZNS since 1957.



# CHAIRMEN



W. H. SWEETING



W.E.A. CALLENDER



ARLINGTON BUTLER



GEORGE A. WHITE



MILO B. BUTLER JR.



CADWELL ARMBRISTER



KENDAL NOTTAGE



**PHILIP SMITH**



**J. RUSSELL FORD**



**CHARLES CARTER**



**V. ALFRED GRAY**



**CLAIRE HEPBURN**



**MICHAEL SMITH**



**DESMOND EDWARDS**



**ARTHUR FOULKES**



**CALSEY JOHNSON**

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## 1957 - 2002

### 1957 – 1962

Hon. W.H. Sweeting, Chairman  
 Mr. W.E.A. Callender  
 Mr. C.C. Richardson  
 Mr. Donald d'Albenas  
 Mr. K.R. Ingraham

### 1967-1968

Mr. Arlington Butler, Chairman  
 Mr. C.C. Richardson, Vice Chairman  
 Mr. George Smith Sr.  
 Dr. George White  
 Mr. Stephen Mitchell

### 1970 – 1974

Sen. The Hon. Milo Butler Jr., Chairman  
 Mr. George W. Smith, Sr., Vice Chairman  
 Mr. Reno Brown  
 Mr. Aaron H. Knowles Sr.  
 Mr. Darrel Rolle

### 1976-1977

Mr. Kendal W. Nottage, M.P., Chairman  
 Mr. George W. Smith, Vice Chairman  
 Mr. Reno J. Brown  
 Mr. Aaron H. Knowles, Sr.  
 Mr. Valentine Grimes

### 1963 – 1966

Mr. W.E.A. Callender, Chairman  
 Captain F.W. Brown  
 Mr. Dawson Roberts  
 Mr. W.K. Duncombe  
 Mr. C.A. Bain

### 1968 - 1969

Dr. George White, Chairman  
 Mr. George W. Smith, Vice Chairman  
 Mr. Stephen Mitchell  
 Mr. Allan Jackson  
 Mr. William Wallace Jr.

### 1974 - 1976

Mr. Cadwell Armbrister, M.P., Chairman  
 Mr. George W. Smith Sr.  
 Mr. Reno Brown  
 Mr. Aaron H. Knowles Sr.  
 Sen. The Hon. Perry Christie

### 1978 - 1979

Mr. Philip Smith, M.P., Chairman  
 Mr. George W. Smith, Sr., Vice Chairman  
 Mr. Aaron H. Knowles, Sr.  
 Mr. Winston Saunders  
 Mr. Reno Brown

**1980 – 1982**

Mr. J. Russell Ford, Chairman  
 Mr. George W. Smith Sr., Vice Chairman  
 Mr. Aaron H. Knowles Sr.  
 Mr. Winston Saunders  
 Mr. Alfred Stewart

**1982 - 1987**

Mr. Charles Carter, M.P., Chairman  
 Mr. George W. Smith Sr., Vice Chairman  
 Sen. The Hon. Alfred Stewart  
 Mr. Reno Brown  
 Mr. K. Neville Adderley

**1987 – 1988**

Mr. Kendal W. Nottage, M.P., Executive Chairman  
 Mr. George W. Smith, Vice Chairman  
 Mr. Aaron H. Knowles  
 Mr. Gregory H. Bethel  
 Rev. Dr. William Thompson

**1989 – 1992**

Mr. V. Alfred Gray, M.P., Chairman  
 Mr. George W. Smith Sr., Vice Chairman  
 Mr. Gregory H. Bethel  
 Rev. Dr. William Thompson  
 Mrs. Debi Burrows

**1992 – 1994**

Mrs. Claire Hepburn, Chairman  
 Haldane Chase  
 Mrs. Nicki Kelly  
 Mrs. Michelle Fields  
 Mr. Winston Varence

**1994 – 2000**

Mr. Mike Smith, Executive Chairman  
 Dr. Mary Ritchie, Vice Chairman  
 Mr. Aaron Knowles Jr.  
 Fr. Etienne Bowleg  
 Mr. Reginald Smith

**2000 – 2001**

Sen. The Hon. Desmond Edwards, Chairman  
 Dr. Mary Ritchie, Vice Chairman  
 Fr. Etienne Bowleg  
 Mr. Aaron H. Knowles Jr.  
 Mr. Reginald Smith

**2001 - 2002**

H.E. Sir Arthur A. Foulkes, Executive Chairman  
 Mr. Ehurd Cunningham  
 Archdeacon Keith Cartwright  
 Mr. Tracey E. Knowles  
 Mrs. Paula Harris

**GENERAL  
MANAGERS  
1936 - 2006**



**KENNETH BROWN**



**H. R. (Rusty) BETHEL**



**JACK DODGE**



**GEORGE K. BRICKENDEN**



**WALTER WISDOM**



**CALSEY JOHNSON**



**CHARLES CARTER**



**LOUIS HANCHELL**



**SANDRA KNOWLES**



**EDWIN LIGHTBOURN**



**ANTHONY FOSTER**



# PROFILES

## JACK DODGE

Mr. Jack Dodge was appointed Assistant General Manager of ZNS Radio in March 1964, replacing Mr. Francis Jackson, who was involved in a fatal incident at sea.

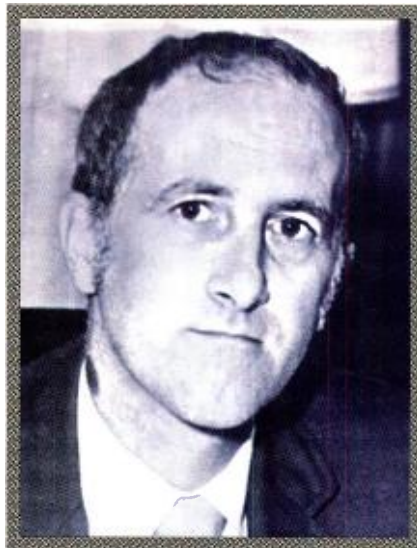
Born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, he took his first course in Radio announcing in 1951, in Moncton, New Brunswick. After having qualified as a full-fledge announcer, he worked at Station VOXM in New Foundland for seventeen (17) months.

He relocated to Bermuda in 1955 and was appointed Chief Announcer, then Programme Director at ZBM. He remained with ZBM Radio for six years. In 1960, Mr. Dodge left Bermuda for the United States, where he traveled from coast to coast. Because announcers were required to be American citizens, and licenced by the Federal Communications Commission, he worked part-time with various Radio and Television stations.

“Home-Sick” for Bermuda, he returned for a holiday in 1963. Shortly after, he reapplied to the Managing Director of the Bermuda Broadcasting Company, Mr. Walt Staskow, for a job as an announcer. While awaiting a reply from ZBM, news was received in Bermuda of the death of Mr. Francis Jackson.

Being a good friend of Mr. H.R. “Rusty” Bethel, and an advisor to ZNS, Mr. Staskow recommended Mr. Jack Dodge to fill the vacancy at ZNS. He was Assistant General Manager of ZNS for eight years. Following the retirement of “Rusty” Bethel in 1971, the Board of ZNS appointed him to the post of General Manager.

Prior to The Bahamas becoming an independent nation, Jack Dodge resigned effective 31<sup>st</sup> March, 1973, and he and his family left New Providence.



## GEORGE F. BRICKENDEN

Mr. George F. Brickenden, a veteran broadcaster in Canada, was seconded to the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation to fill the vacancy created by the unexpected resignation of Mr. Jack Dodge, the General Manager in, 1973.

Early in its operation, ZNS found the need to establish a good working relationship with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. The Superintendent of Telegraphs, Mr. D. Hodgson, requested training and Mr. H.R. Bethel was sent to CBC Toronto for training in 1947 and Mr. Ernest Morgan from the CBC came to Nassau to train staff at the station. Therefore, it was natural for the Board to request assistance from them, when selecting a replacement for Jack Dodge.



Mr. Brickenden's vast knowledge and experience would prove very beneficial at a very critical time in the development of ZNS and The Bahamas as it was approaching nationhood. Following Independence, he helped to define the broadcasting industry in The Bahamas.

During his tenure, the Radio building at 3<sup>rd</sup> Terrace was completely renovated and redesigned. The executive offices were relocated from Second Terrace and the complete operation was again under one roof.

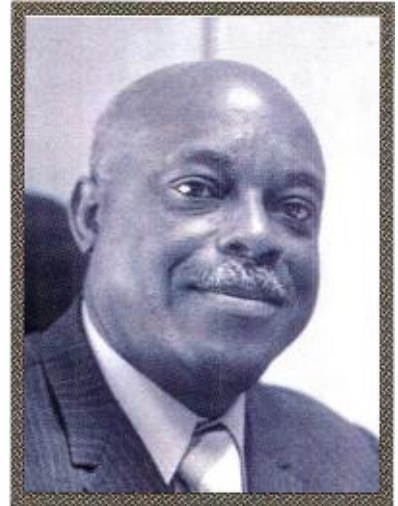
From 1973 to 1975, George F. Brickenden gave strong professional leadership to ZNS Radio. He ensured that Bahamians were sufficiently trained for leadership within the growing network of stations.

## WALTER N. WISDOM

Walter Neville Wisdom was born on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 1922, in Lagos, Nigeria, West Africa. At the time of his birth, his parents, Major Zeodekiak and Margaret Wisdom of Jamaica, West Indies, were serving as Salvation Army missionaries in Nigeria.

When the family returned to Jamaica, they settled in Montego Bay, where young Walter continued his Secondary School education. Later, he graduated with distinction from Walton College for Commercial Studies.

During World War II, he served as a member of the “Royal Corp. of Signals” in Jamaica. For this service, he was the recipient of a distinguished service certificate in the New Year’s Honours List in 1947.



Later, Mr. Wisdom became a citizen of The Bahamas. He resided in The Bahamas following his marriage to Miss Dorothy Roberts, whom he met while she was serving in the Auxiliary Territorial Service of the British Army in Kingston, Jamaica, during the period of the war. Dorothy was the daughter of the famous Bahamian educator, Mr. E.P. Roberts and his wife Gladys (nee Archer).

His training in Business Administration and Finance qualified him for employment in the Accounts section of the Telegraph Department. After several years of service, he was seconded to ZNS as an accountant. Subsequently, his job description was enlarged to include other significant duties.

Mr. Wisdom was most effective as “Secretary to the Board.” He was instrumental in the reorganization of ZNS in the early 1970’s and was instrumental in determining the role Broadcasting would play in the years before and after the attainment of Independence.

In 1973, Mr. Wisdom became the General Manager of the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas. He gave eighteen (18) years of service to the Broadcasting Corporation. During his tenure as General Manager, many positive changes were achieved including the extension of the Radio building at 3<sup>rd</sup> Terrace, Centreville, the development of the Northern Service, the design and construction of the television building and staff training in television broadcasting.

He strengthened the ties between ZNS personnel and overseas broadcasters through active participation in the Caribbean Broadcasting Union and the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association. This included staff exchanges, on-the-job training at member stations, regional cooperation and attendance at major conferences.

His contribution to the development of Radio and Television in The Bahamas continues to positively impact the on-going work of ZNS.

Mr. Wisdom was also active in other aspects of Bahamian national life. For a number of years, he served as Vice President of the Bahamas Athletic Association and contributed to its development through his participation in the Bain Town Flyers Sporting Club. As a trained musician, he was a leading member of the world famous Freddie Munnings Orchestra.

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He was proud of his children, Gerald, the Hon. Neville Wisdom, Minister of Youth, Sports and Housing, Dr. Keith Wisdom, Evon, Arlene and Andrea (deceased). Following in the footsteps of his father, Dr. Keith Wisdom, has chosen a career in Broadcasting and Mass Communication.

Mr. Wisdom died on March 29<sup>th</sup>, 1981.

## MR. CHARLES CARTER



Charles Carter was born in Nassau, where he received his early education. He continued his studies at various institutions in Nassau and in the United States of America.

He has served The Bahamas as a Broadcaster, Businessman, Politician and Cabinet Minister.

He is considered a legend in Radio Broadcasting in The Bahamas. As host of the “Young Bahamian” show on ZNS during the 1960’s, Mr. Carter identified and highlighted the talents of Bahamians. To enhance his show, he traveled throughout the Islands of The Bahamas recording the “sounds” of Bahamians. Later, with the introduction of television, he captured the “sights” of The Bahamas for broadcast. Through his efforts in Broadcasting, he was instrumental in assisting a significant number of Bahamians with careers in the Entertainment and Cultural sectors.

Despite his appointment to various administrative posts at the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas, Mr. Carter maintained his commitment to cultural promotion. It received his endorsement as Programme Director and as Assistant General Manager with responsibility for the establishment of television in 1976. Later, Mr. Carter became General Manager with responsibility for Television.

A popular individual, Mr. Carter entered frontline politics in the 1980’s. In 1982, he was elected as the Member of Parliament for the Holy Cross Constituency. He served in the House of Assembly until 1992. During that period, he served as the Chairman of the Boards of the Broadcasting Corporation and the Bahamas Electricity Corporation, and as Deputy Speaker of the House of Assembly.

In 1989, he was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs. The following year, 1990, he was appointed Minister of Health and held this position until his electoral defeat in General Elections held in August, 1992. He was appointed to the Senate in 1992, but resigned within the year to pursue his private business interests, which include Carter Marketing and Island FM Radio – 102.9 FM.

## Louis Walter Archer Hanchell

Louis Walter Archer Hanchell was born into a loving and closely-knit family. His parents, Mary Effie Archer of Abaco, and Edward Hanchell of the Turks and Caicos Islands, are both deceased.

His mentors, who are regarded as a "tower of strength," include his elder sibling, Mamie E.L. Astwood, a renowned educator, and Helena Dorsette. They, along with his mother and maternal grandmother, Mary Jane Archer, ensured that he was well-trained at home and prepared for the future, by exposing him to strong Christian principles which are values that are engraved in him.



Louis received his formal education at various public schools beginning with St. Felicitus Primary School (Orthodox on Bilney Lane). He also attended the Eastern Senior School, where he came under the influence of great teachers such as Mr. D.W. Davis and Mr. Kenneth Huyler.

At this period in the development of The Bahamas, it was normal for students to complete school at age thirteen (13) or fourteen (14). Therefore, young Louis did remarkably well.

Following this, Louis continued his education at private institutions. He enrolled in the Ministry of Education's Classes for prospective candidates for the Cambridge Junior Certificates. He successfully completed advanced studies in English, History, Literature and Health Science. His tuition was secured by teachers of Queen's College and Methodist Ministers with whom he studied Religion, the Bible, Theology and Homiletics.

Further, he completed special work-related courses including the following: Commercial Typing and Shorthand, Speed Reading, the Dale Carnegie Course in Effective Speaking and Human Relations, the University of Miami's "Management by Objectives Course" with professors, Doctors Don Hudson and Bob Glaskowski, the BAM & AD Supervisors Course, the Public Service Centre Seminar in Industrial Relations (Dr. Zin Henry) and the MDR Bahamas Leadership Roundtable.

He began his career in broadcasting on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1957. He was hired at ZNS as a Traffic Clerk and Copywriter for the Sales Department, when that unit was in its embryonic stage.

Commercial broadcasting was relatively new to ZNS at the time and he along with the Deputy General Manager, Mr. "Kim" Jackson, who supervised the Sales Department, were responsible for generating funds for the operations. Mae Davis-Payne was the traffic clerk, who prepared the daily Log sheets and the Continuity Books for the announcers. She was a pioneer in this area and was later joined by Miss Thelma Deveaux.

As a Salesman who canvassed business places throughout New Providence, Mr. Hanchell had direct contact with the "movers and shakers" in commerce and business. He became well known among the founders of some of today's most successful businesses as well as their sons and daughters who succeeded them. He found this to be an advantage in the Sales Department, as he could always make personal contact with business persons by telephone calls, or in person at their offices, to make a Sales presentation.

In addition to his on-the-job training in broadcasting, he benefited from vocational training at ZBM Radio in Hamilton, Bermuda, in 1964. In 1972, he was attached to the Sales and Programme Department at the Guyana Broadcasting Services. This was followed by a three-week working experience at the Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation, where he was again attached to the Sales and Programme Department in the largest media market in the English-speaking Caribbean.

He is grateful for the opportunity of providing service to The Bahamas, through his work at the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas. His impressive record of excellent service is listed as follows:

- Copywriter and Traffic Clerk, 1957-1964
- Sales and Traffic Supervisor, 1964-1972
- Sales Director, 1972-1976
- Programme Director/Radio, 1976-1978
- Station Manager/Radio Bahamas Northern Service, 1978-1981
- Deputy General Manager, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 1981 - June 30<sup>th</sup>, 1991
- Acting General Manager, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1991 – September 30<sup>th</sup>, 1991
- General Manager, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 1991 – January 10<sup>th</sup>, 1993
- Consultant, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 1993 – October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1993

After completing 36 years of dedicated service, Mr. Hanchell retired from the Broadcasting Corporation of the Bahamas on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1993.

He is an active member of St. Matthew's Anglican Church, where he serves as a Lay Reader. His hobbies include gardening, philately and the performing and visual arts.



## **MS. SANDRA J. KNOWLES**

Ms. Sandra Knowles is a former Educator and Investment Bank Manager. At the Government High School, New Providence, she headed the History Department for a number of years. She was also an Assistant Manager of the Investment Department of Coutts and Company.

She was selected by the Government of The Bahamas, in consultation with the Board of Directors of the Broadcasting Corporation of the Bahamas, to become the first woman to head ZNS Radio and Television.



On Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 1993, former Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Hubert A. Ingraham, addressed the staff in Studio "A" of TV-13, announcing the appointment of Ms. Knowles.

He said, "Sandra comes with the full confidence of the Government of The Bahamas. She is competent, she knows precisely what our goals and our objectives are in respect to broadcasting. She has no knowledge about broadcasting and that is one of the attributes we look for – someone who is fresh, who will also seek to make ZNS gel as a place where there is accountability from bottom to top, from top to bottom. Sandra will have more authority as a General Manager than any General Manager has ever had in broadcasting before in The Bahamas. The Government will proceed to amend the Broadcast Regulations to vest in the General Manager the authority to manage the Corporation."

As members of the press were in attendance at the general staff meeting, this announcement was fully reported in the print and broadcast media.

In preparation for her work at ZNS, Ms. Knowles, a graduate of the University of Miami, was immediately sent to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Toronto, for training. She served as General Manager of ZNS until 1997.

## **EDWIN SAMUEL LIGHTBOURN**



Edwin Lightbourn is a former student of St. John's College, Nassau.

He continued his education at Grand Rapids Junior College, Grand Rapids, Michigan, obtaining an Associate of Arts degree in Journalism in 1974.

From 1974-1976, he attended the University of Houston, Houston, Texas, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Communications.

Mr. Lightbourn is a veteran Journalist. He spent eleven (11) years at the Nassau Guardian in a dual role as a Reporter and Sub Editor.

In 1980, he was employed at the Freeport News, Grand Bahama. During the nine (9) years spent at this organization, he served as Acting Editor and chaired Editorial meetings. He initiated the publication of a monthly feature magazine.

From 1993-1997, Mr. Lightbourn served as Assistant General Manager of the Northern Service of the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas. During his tenure at the Northern Service, the programming of ZNS-3 was revamped. His efforts also resulted in the computerization of all departments, the implementation of the Maxagrid Pricing System and the Opening of the ZNS Sales Office in Abaco.

From 1997 to 2003, he served as General Manager of the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas.

In April, 1999, Mr. Lightbourn participated in the Columbia University Graduate School of Business Transition to General Manager Programme.

He has also served as Vice President and President of the Caribbean Broadcasting Union, CBU.

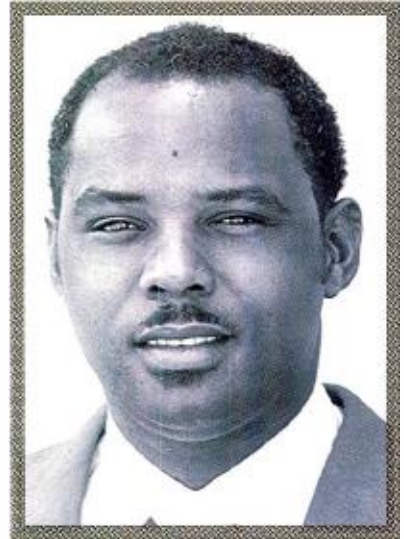
Currently, Mr. Lightbourn is assisting The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism as Director-designate to the proposed Bahamas Communications Commission.

## **MR. ALBERT DONALD ADDERLEY**

### **First Deputy General Manager Northern Service**

Albert Adderley, the son of Mr. Malcolm Adderley Senior and his wife Elaine, was a proud resident of Ann's Town, off Kemp Road in New Providence. He completed his "formal" education at the Eastern Junior and Senior Schools in New Providence.

Mr. Adderley's contribution to Radio Bahamas and the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas began in 1956. At age 15, he was employed as a Messenger/ Receptionist. During his years of "good and faithful service," Albert held various positions at the corporation. In 1957, he was promoted to Chief Librarian. He is credited with organizing the station's library when it moved to its present location in Centreville. He became knowledgeable in the area of music and in Radio programming.



Later, he was transferred to the Sales Department and was sent by the Corporation to Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Toronto, Canada, on an extensive Sales and Marketing course in 1971-72. During this time, he also received on the job-training at Group-One Radio. He was awarded a certificate from the Broadcasting Executive Society of Toronto, Canada.

In 1976, "Abbie," as he was affectionately called by his family and colleagues, became the Corporation's Sales Director. He held this position until 1980, when he was again promoted and transferred to the Northern Service as Station Manager.

He was a member of the Anglican community in The Bahamas and was highly respected in the Grand Bahama Community, where he was also active in the Freeport Rotary Club and once served as President.

He gained the trust and loyalty of his colleagues at the Northern Service, who nominated him, and were delighted, when he was named "Manager Of The Year."

He married his childhood friend, Joan Culmer-McCartney in 1964, and they were the parents of four children, Vaughn, Doland, Renee and Greer.

He died suddenly on Boxing Day, December 26<sup>th</sup>, 1991, shortly after being promoted to Assistant General Manager/Northern Service.

# **PARTNERSHIPS**

# PARTNERSHIPS

The Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas and its network of Radio and Television stations enjoy membership in several prestigious broadcasting organizations such as the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association (CBA), with headquarters in London, England, and the Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU), with headquarters in St. Michael's, Barbados.

ZNS has played host to both of these important partners by sponsoring their General Assemblies and Conferences in Nassau. The CBA Conference in 1988 brought delegates from around the world to Nassau and to the radio and television facilities of the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas.

The CBU is a regional body with whom ZNS constantly shares ideas and personnel through exchange programmes and regular meetings.

In The Bahamas, the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas continues to have a good working relationship with the President and Officers of the Bahamas Communications and Public Officers Union, BCPOU, which has represented the Bargaining Unit of the Corporation's employees since 1986.

Its Middle-Management personnel became members of the Bahamas Communications and Public Managers Union, BCPMU, in 2005.

The officers and members of these great organizations have sent messages saluting the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas and congratulating its management and staff on the observance of its 70<sup>th</sup> year of service – a very significant achievement. Their messages follow:

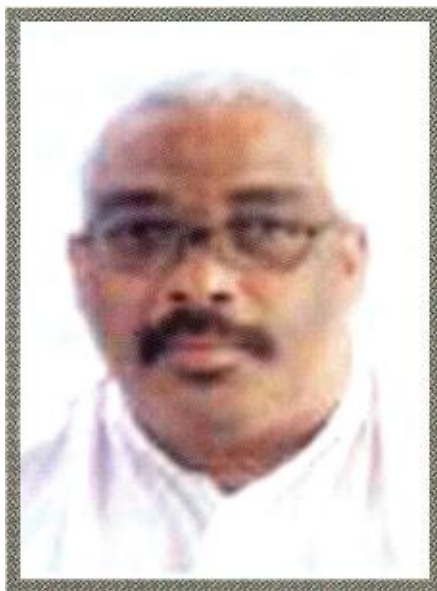
**MESSAGE FROM THE  
SECRETARY GENERAL  
COMMONWEALTH BROADCASTING ASSOCIATION  
Mrs. Elizabeth Smith, O.B.E.**

The CBA is delighted to congratulate the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas on its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. You have a proud history of service to your community and you have also played a role in Commonwealth Broadcasting, as when you hosted the CBA General Conference in 1988. You have been members of the CBA since 1969 and have always played a part in the development of broadcasting in less fortunate countries. I wish you every success for the celebration of your anniversary and for the years ahead.



**CADWELL ARMBRISTER & WALTER WISDOM WITH OTHER DELEGATES AT A CBA MEETING**

## **MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CARIBBEAN BROADCASTING UNION**



**PATRICK COZIER**

The Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU) offers its warmest congratulations to ZNS on marking the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its Radio Station.

ZNS has been a member of the CBU for many years and an integral part of the Bahamian family for a virtual lifetime. Its record of service has been outstanding and is attested to by its longevity.

This has been an outstanding example of Public Service Broadcasting and the CBU is very proud, to record its appreciation of this significant achievement.

Congratulations and well done, ZNS!

**MESSAGE FROM THE  
BAHAMAS COMMUNICATIONS  
AND PUBLIC MANAGERS UNION  
CLAUDE B. HANNA  
PRESIDENT**



The Officers and Members of the Bahamas Communications and Public Managers Union extend best wishes to the BCB on the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ZNS Radio Station.

Your growth and development in the field of Radio Broadcasting have been an inspiration for all. While the challenges have been many, through your commitment and dedication to provide service to the Bahamian people, you have persevered.

We wish you the best and we do trust that in the years to come, you enjoy many successes. We hope that those who are dependent on your service, are immensely satisfied.



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## MESSAGE FROM THE BAHAMAS COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC OFFICERS UNION

**ROBERT A. FARQUHARSON**  
**PRESIDENT**

The Bahamas Communications and Public Officers Union would like to extend sincere congratulations to the Executive Chairman, Board of Directors, Executive Management and the entire staff of the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas on the occasion of their 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Over the past seventy years, the Corporation has evolved from humble beginnings in Radio Transmissions to, what I consider, "The Jewel of the Caribbean" in Radio and Television Broadcasting. The professional men and women, who today are employed at the BCB, are highly qualified and are well prepared to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond.

The BCPOU has developed a strong partnership with the Board of Directors and Management of the BCB and we are indeed very proud to participate in all of the activities of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations. The members of the corporation, who are members of the BCPOU, are committed to ensuring that the BCB remains the Superior Entity for Broadcasting in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

The Executive Board and the entire membership of the BCPOU extend our prayers and best wishes to the corporation as you celebrate this milestone in the history of the Corporation. Our desire is that we continue to work together to uphold Equality, Justice and Unity in the workplace, while at the same time maximize Efficiency and Productivity at every level in the BCB.



The Corporation is also an affiliate of the International Telecommunications Union, ITU, of Switzerland. Staff Members of ZNS have been fortunate to attend meetings of this world body along with personnel from the Bahamas Telecommunications Company, one of whom is a permanent member with the right to vote for The Bahamas.

Radio Bahamas is forever indebted to the Bahamas Telecommunications Company and considers it to be its major local partner. It was the ingenuity of those who managed this company in the early years of its history which created ZNS as a Unit within the Telegraph Department and developed it, until it was able to separate and manage its own affairs.

The Broadcasting Corporation and the Bahamas Telecommunications Company are forever linked by their common history, shared values and their mandate to provide adequate broadcasting and communication services to meet the need of all the people of this nation which is rapidly developing.

**MESSAGE FROM  
THE BAHAMAS TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
COMPANY LIMITED  
MR. LEON WILLIAMS  
ACTING PRESIDENT & CEO**



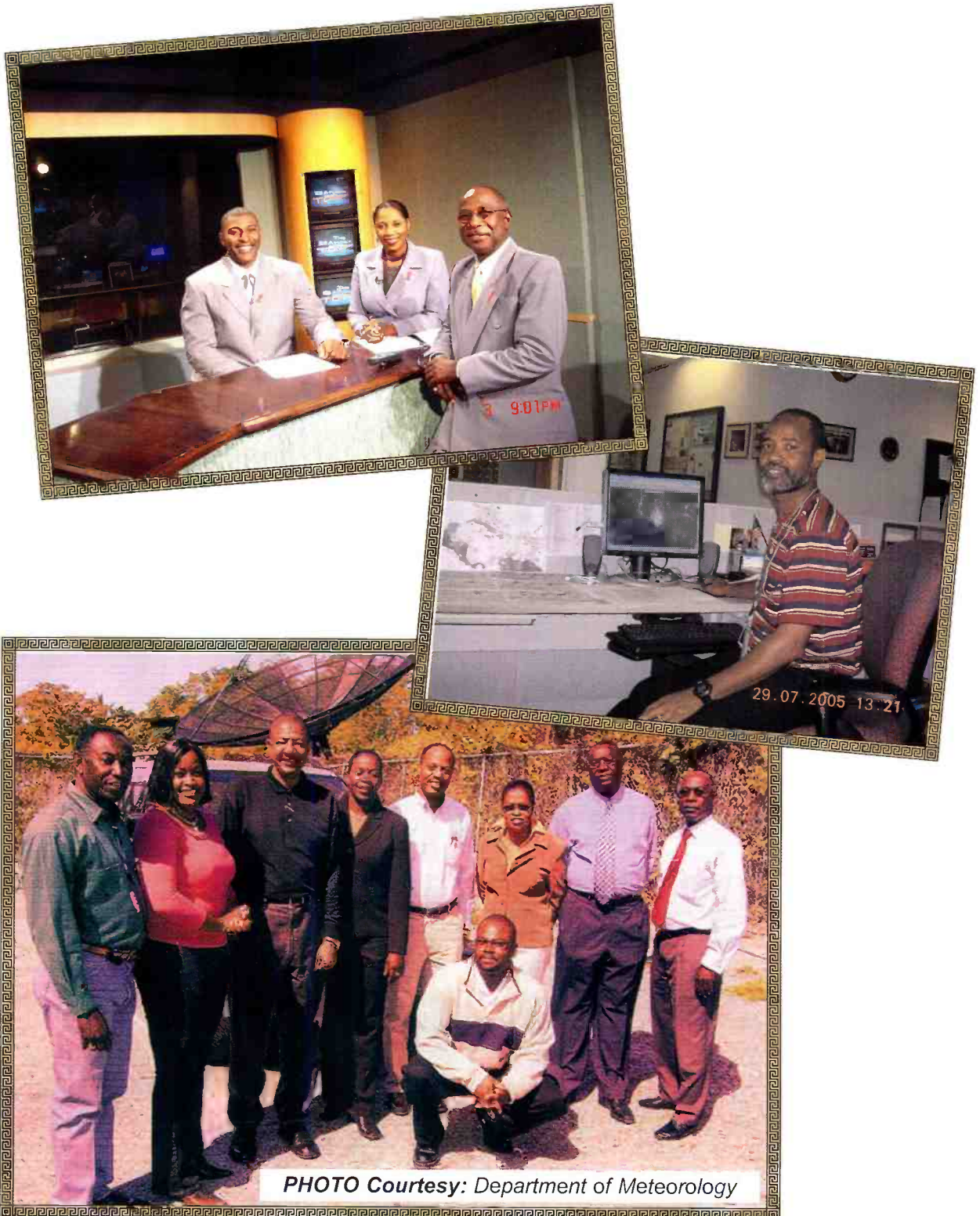
The Bahamas Telecommunications Company Limited (BTC) is pleased to congratulate the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas for 70 years of remarkable, ground-breaking and history-making service.

It has been a pleasure to partner with the corporation over the years on countless occasions and during numerous events and we look forward to a mutually rewarding relationship in the years to come.

On behalf of the Executive Management and Staff of BTC, we would like to extend our warmest congratulations to the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas on a job well done.

The Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas also maintains a good working relationship with the Department of Meteorology and relies on it for accurate Weather Reports, which are broadcast on all its facilities several times daily.

Without the full cooperation of the professional staff at this Department, ZNS would be unable to provide the nation with current information on weather conditions and hurricane warnings, which are a matter of life and death.

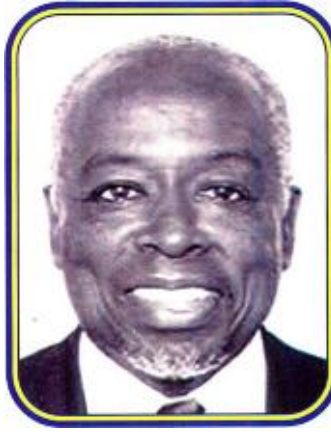


The Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas has also established a relationship with the team of "Sister Sarah's Kitchen." This popular Radio programme is aired weekdays on ZNS -1, and is consistent with the motto of ZNS, "To Inform, Educate and Entertain."

## Sister Sarah's Kitchen



Claudette Allens  
'Tita'



Valentine Maura  
'Glamour Boy'



Patricia Thomas  
'Sister Sarah'

Marshall Orr - Financial Controller  
Rosemary Moxey - Janitress  
Mary Saunders - Janitress  
Edna Deveaux - Janitress  
Thomas Carroll - Chief Security Officer  
Agnes Ferguson - News Anchor  
Michelle Malcolm - News Anchor  
Enid Kerr - Chauffeur  
Vaughn Miller- Announcer  
William "Bill" Bain - Announcer  
Leander Bethel - Engineer  
Kayla Lockart-Edwards - Producer/Host  
Dan Rodgers - Reporter  
Monsignor Preston Moss - Copywriter  
Basil Sands - Reporter  
Eric Wilmott - Reporter  
Gurth Archer - Traffic Clerk  
Wendal Rolle - Traffic Clerk  
Eunice Rodgers - Clerk  
Victor Callander - Salesman/Copywriter  
Teri Sands - Secretary  
Basil (Bas Jazz) Cooper - Announcer  
George Capron - Announcer  
Steve McKinney - Sports Reporter  
Paulette Zonicle - Reporter/Producer  
Eugene Davis - Director/Producer  
Patricia Horton - Security Officer  
Ivan Ricardo Ferguson-Technician  
Rick Dean - Sports Reporter  
Dorothy Panza-Robinson - News Anchor  
Katherine Gibson - News Anchor  
Kendal Wright - Sports Reporter  
Anthony Davies - Engineer  
Eugene Clare - Engineer  
Ambrose Smith - Engineer  
Osborne "Joy" Rolle - Handyman  
Gaynell Ellis - Clerk/Community News

## "lest we forget" Portraits



**WILMA ARMBRISTER**  
Supervisor/Community News



**PATRIC WALKES**  
Director/Sales & Marketing



**PAMELA BETHEL-GRANGER**  
Secretary to the Board and the  
General Manager



**REV. GARY CURRY**  
Announcer



**SAMUEL HEPBURN**  
Chief Engineer



**MIZPAH ARCHER**  
Accountant



**PETER MUNROE**  
Announcer



**LESLIE CARTWRIGHT**  
Chief Engineer



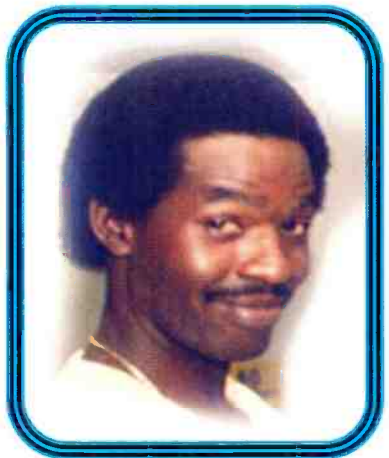
**NADEEN CAMPBELL- BENEBY**  
Announcer



**DAWNE BETHEL**  
Announcer



**MIKE SMITH**  
News Director



**KIRK SMITH**  
News Director



**RUBY SIMMONS**  
Director/TV Programme



**AL DILLETT**  
News Reporter



**HEATHER WOODS-KHRONE**  
News Editor



**FRED MITCHELL**  
News Director



**CINDY WILLIAMS**  
Announcer



**LIONEL DORSETTE**  
News Reporter





**REG SMITH**  
Manager/ Northern Service



**YVONNE HALL**  
Sales Clerk



**JEFF SCAVELLA**  
Announcer



**GWEN BAIN**  
Supervisor/Human Resources



**CYNTHIA TAYLOR**  
Janitress



**DAISY DUNCOMBE**  
Janitress



**MIKE THOMPSON**  
Chief Engineer



**MARSHALL ORR**  
Financial Controller



**WHYCLIFFE MILLER**  
Announcer



**MARY SAUNDERS**  
Janitress



**THOMAS CARROLL**  
Chief Security Officer



**AGNES FERGUSON**  
News Anchor



**MICHELLE MALCOLM**  
Producer/Director



**ENID KERR**  
Chauffeur



**VAUGHN MILLER**  
Announcer



**KAYLA LOCKART- EDWARDS**  
Producer/Host



**LEANDER BETHEL**  
Engineer



**NOEL HAMILTON**  
Announcer



**TERI SANDS**  
Secretary



**GEORGE CAPRON**  
Announcer



**KENDAL WRIGHT**  
Sports Reporter



**RICK DEAN**  
Sports Reporter



**GURTH ARCHER**  
Traffic Clerk



**PAULETTE ZONICLE**  
Reporter/Producer



**EUGENE DAVIS**  
Director/Producer



**PATRICIA HORTON**  
Security Officer



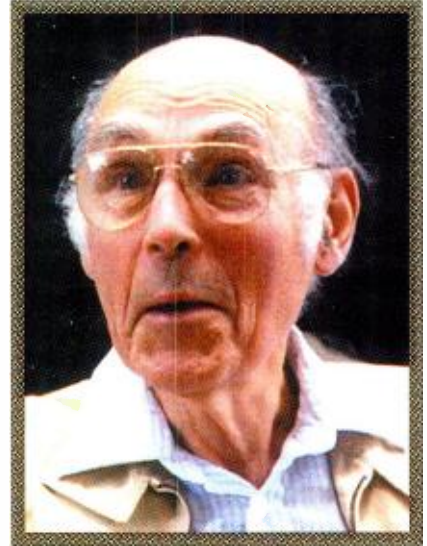
**IVAN RICARDO FERGUSON**  
Technician

# FUN & FROLIC



## KENNETH P. BROWN'S TENURE AT ZNS

"It is 68 years since January, 1938, when as a young lad aged 17 years, I walked tremulously into the Little Hat Shop on Shirley Street where ZNS had its first studio in a two-room bungalow. Mr. Jarrett, the "number 2" man in the Colonial Government, who chaired the Broadcast Advisory Committee, had told me to go there for a voice test; as he put it, 'to see if the microphone liked my voice.'" Milton Cleare at the console handed me a brief weather report. Never have 30 seconds seemed so long. My heart was thumping as I realized that my job hung on that half-minute.



Well, the next week I was reading the News from that improvised little studio and competing for air-time with the neighbour's full-throated rooster whose farm yard cries could be heard clearly by our listeners. ZNS had a somewhat amateur flavour.

One year later ZNS moved to the new Telecommunications building behind the Police Station on Rawson Square. I wasn't too happy to be located so close to the Police Station, but more on that later in this article.

When I started as the first salaried Announcer, ZNS was on the air for only one hour each evening. The station had been started on an experimental basis about 18 months earlier with the volunteer services of various public-spirited individuals acting as announcers. Program organization was haphazard. Some evenings, I was told, the volunteer arrived but no one knew what was to be broadcast.

When I took over, the first thing I did was to draw up a weekly program, submitting it to Mr. Jarrett for approval. We gradually increased our time on the air, but the outbreak of World War II prompted an immediate increase to four hours each evening from 6 pm to 10 pm supplemented by half-hour broadcasts at 8:45 am and 12:45 pm when we relayed the News from the BBC.

As a wartime economy measure, the technician's salary was cut from the budget. As a result I moved from the announcer's desk in the studio to the technician's seat in the control room. Here, I worked the console, watching the volume meter to ensure that the volume of sound being fed to the transmitter did not exceed the limit and throw us off the air. At the same time, I read the News, made all announcements, directed people in the studio, spun musical discs on the two turntables and answered the telephone. It is hardly surprising that ZNS sometimes sounded less than entirely professional. Incidentally, it should be mentioned that the station carried no commercials at that time.

Our policy was to have as many as possible live programs using local talent without resorting to too much recorded music. We welcomed all kinds of talent - choirs, songs by soloists and duets, piano and organ recitals, radio dramas, interviews with visiting V.I.P.s, variety shows by talented personnel on the Royal Air Force base and quiz programs with teams from the local community competing. And this brings me to an embarrassing memory...

We started our first quiz show after an extensive publicity campaign. As the moment arrived to open the microphones, a drunken woman was thrown in the cells at the Police Station. It was a hot evening and all our windows were wide open for, of course, there was no air conditioning. The woman's shrieks drifted up through the windows and went on the air together with the competitor's answers. Not an auspicious beginning for our much heralded weekly quiz show.

Perhaps our most popular item was "Smokey Joe Says" on Tuesday evenings. This was a 3-5 minute piece written and voiced by Eugene Dupuch who was then a reporter with the Nassau Daily Tribune. Smokey Joe was a fictitious character created by Mr. Dupuch who commented on local events, adding his own hilarious observations.

For the first three years at ZNS, I didn't have a day off, so I was very glad to welcome Rusty Bethel who was hired to build up our service to the Out Islands. He made numerous trips to all the islands where he established community receivers tuned to ZNS and situated in community halls or churches. In those days, individually-owned radios were rare. The people would gather to listen on the community receiver to our service for the Out Islands; this included commodity prices, boat arrivals and departures and other items of particular interest to the Out Islands. When I left ZNS to emigrate to Canada, "Rusty" succeeded me and under his leadership the station grew to what it is today.

Now, at the age of 85, I remember with pleasure my eight years with ZNS and I must admit they were the happiest years of my entire career."





## **"IN HIS OWN WORDS"**

**TEXT OF AN ADDRESS TO THE KIWANIS CLUB OF LUCAYA, FREEPORT, GRAND BAHAMA, BY MR. HARCOURT RODNEY (RUSTY) BETHEL, A FORMER GENERAL MANAGER OF THE BROADCASTING CORPORATION OF THE BAHAMAS, ON 24<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 1989**

As I told the President a few minutes ago, this is the eighth time that I have done this, and I assured him that this will be the last.

This is the last time that I would address anybody on Radio Station ZNS, so you have the honour of knowing that this is the last time.

Firstly, I would like to thank the President, Mr. Leo Hepburn, and the members of the Lucayan Kiwanis Club for giving me the opportunity and privilege to speak on a subject which has been, and still is very dear to me and that is Radio Station ZNS.

I regret that my allotted time will not allow me to cover the subject as I would like to, but I can assure you that I fully understand.

I also wish to congratulate the Lucayan Club of Freeport for the excellent work it has done and is still doing in Freeport.

I was born in Cherokee Sound, Abaco, on a stormy Sunday afternoon. The date was May 29<sup>th</sup>, 1913. It appears that the elements were displeased with this event and when the folks of the settlement came to view the infant neither were they pleased.

Up to the time of my historic birth, the settlement of Cherokee Sound had been noted for handsome males and beautiful females. Not wishing to mar the record, my family decided that we should move to a less sensitive climate. Therefore, at the tender age of five, I moved with my family to Miami, Florida, U.S.A.. Neither were these people pleased with me.

We eventually returned to The Bahamas in June, 1924 and settled in Nassau. Sometime after I returned to Nassau, I joined the staff of the Royal Bank of Canada, being the only bank in The Bahamas at that time. They were not particular either in those days, and I remained with the Royal Bank of Canada for eight and a half years.

During this time, I studied Wireless Telegraphy as a side line and at the end of this period, I was able to obtain a first class Operator's Licence and secured a post on the United Fruit Company's Ship, a charter ship as a Wireless Operator. That ship plied between the Eastern Coast of Cuba and Jacksonville, Florida. The ship's name was the "S.S. Belize," an English Freighter, then owned by the late Sir Roland Symonette, first Premier of The Bahamas and Captain Harold Johnson, now deceased, who was also the Ship's Captain.

After one year on the "The S.S. Belize," I accepted a post as a Wireless Operator on the ship "Monarch of Nassau," which took passengers to Miami from The Bahamas.

Until ZNS was assigned its own frequency in May 1936, broadcasts to the "Out Islands" were made on the Telecommunication Department's frequency that was used by ships at sea. This was not a satisfactory arrangement and the idea of a Radio station was suggested to the then Colonial Secretary by officials of the Telegraph Department. In the end, a Bill was sent to the House of Assembly, seeking approval for five hundred pounds to get the ZNS radio station on the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC ) assigned medium wave frequency of 640 KC- which is Kilocycles, and a short wave frequency of 690 KC's – and the infant station went on the air for the first time on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 1936. To be exact at 6:30 p.m. with a power of 50 watts.

The station was heard in prime time at one hour in the morning and one hour in the evening. The station was then located in the Snappy Hat Shop on Shirley Street two doors east of Union Street (now Elizabeth Avenue) exactly where Graham Thompson law offices are now located.

The station went on the air on that eventful date, May 26<sup>th</sup> , 1936. Kenneth Brown, its first Manager, came to Nassau prior to the outbreak of World War II as a teacher at the Belmont School. This school transferred to Nassau for the duration of the war for the safety of its students.

ZNS moved to its headquarters on East Street on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 1938. I joined the staff on that date with the grand title of "Secretary of Out Island Broadcasting" at a salary of eight pounds fourteen shillings and three pence per month.

My job at the time was to establish radio links with the out lying settlements of the Out Islands. I went from island to island installing battery- powered Motorola Radios in Community Centres such as schools, Government buildings etc. The batteries were charged by wind charges installed on the roof of the building due to the absence of electricity in those days. I might add that I was allowed a four Shilling per night traveling allowance for over night accommodation – not a great sum – and many a time I had to make up the difference from my own salary which was eight pounds fourteen shillings and three pence per month.

I arrived in West End, Grand Bahama immediately after I had installed a community Radio System in Cooper's Town and Cedar Harbour. I traveled with Captain Beecher Archer, a native of Marsh Harbour, Abaco and his crew on a boat loaded with crawfish in sacks. When we arrived in West End, Mr. Bryon Pinder, Manager of "The Lighthouse," the guest house which was owned by General Sea Food of New York, he had only one room left at a cost of one pound ten shillings per night.

I had to be taken to the room because I had a high fever. When the Director saw my expense account upon my return to Nassau, all hell broke loose. "What is this one pound ten shillings he asked? I tried to explain what it was all about but to no avail. At the end of that month it was properly deducted from my salary.

I still correspond with the Director, whose name is Dean Darcy Hodson. He is now living in Vancouver, B.C.,Canada and we remain good friends.

He trained the late Mr. Kenneth Ingraham, O.B.E. who succeeded him as Director, and later the first General Manager of the Bahamas Telecommunications Corporation (Batelco). Together, they designed the Forward Scatter System in Nassau. Mr. Ingraham was a native of Harbour Island.

World War II brought the Royal Air Force to Nassau, as well as a number of professional and war refugees. Some of those professionals gave freely of their talent to station ZNS. Live talent and plays were regular features produced by them.

Kenneth Brown left station ZNS in 1944 to join the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC)



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in Ottawa, Canada and I then became (was appointed) General Manager.

In 1947, I was sent to the CBC in Toronto, Canada for a three month training course in Commercial Radio and Television, as a decision was made to put the station on a commercial basis.

This followed by a further stint of six weeks in Hamilton, Bermuda at ZBM on an orientation course. It was not until one year later, on the recommendation of a four man investigation committee, that the station was put on a commercial basis. The date, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1950. By 1956, the station's commercial and broadcasting service had so expanded that it was felt that the station was not in a position to stand on its own "two feet," and the relationship with the Telecommunication Department ceased on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1957 by virtue of an Act creating the Bahamas Radio and Television Commission. The station then operated its own bank account, paid its own debt and supported itself entirely from the sale of commercials, announcements and programmes. No Government subsidy was received and none was needed at that time. The station was on a steady, sound, safe course.

Being only an A.M. station in 1963, ZNS moved into the F.M. circuit – (A.M. stands for Amplitude Modulation. F.M. is a type of transmission which stands for Frequency Modulation. This was a dual purpose. This was firstly to eliminate land-line noises between the station and the transmitter, and secondly to provide our listeners who had F.M. Radio, with a much cleaner, and much clearer signal.

From a working budget of five hundred pounds a year which was about \$1,400.00 in 1938, the station showed a gross revenue of \$655,000 in 1969.

Station ZNS. moved to its present quarters located at 3<sup>rd</sup> Terrace Centreville on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 1959 and I retired as General Manager on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 1970.

At this point, I find it appropriate to give you some information, brief though it may be, of station ZNS 3, which is your station here in Freeport; which is referred to as Radio Bahamas Northern Service. ZNS -3 was established in May of 1973 to serve the Northern Bahamas– in particular the major population centres of Freeport – the outlying settlements of Grand Bahama–Northern Abaco, Bimini and the Berry Islands.

The station began broadcasting on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 1973 from a studio in the Kipling Building, downtown Freeport on a frequency of 1060 KC and a power of 1,000 watts. The transmitter was on West Atlantic Drive.

The hours of operation was some what irregular – incorporating local orientation with network services during the day and joining the network in Nassau at 6:30 p.m. Eventually the local programmes were extended to include 12 ½ hours – from 6:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday. All newscasts originated from the Network in Nassau. The programming is similar to that of ZNS–2 in Nassau (Contemporary Music) with more emphasis on Bahamian and Caribbean music.

In 1979, the sixth anniversary of ZNS–3, the commissioning of a new 250 foot tower and transmitting building took place on the Corporation's 8.5 acre site on West Settlers Way in Without any doubt, this was a great milestone in the brief history of ZNS–3 as this new facility made it possible for Radio Bahamas Northern Service to reach practically every individual in our Northern Islands, including Grand Bahama, Abaco, Bimini and the Berry Islands. With 10 KC of power and with a directional antenna there should be little doubt that the clients of ZNS received a wide coverage to advertise their products.

Earlier, I mentioned that the idea for a radio station was suggested to the then Colonial Secretary by officials of the Telecommunications Department as it was known in those days, it is now Batelco.

The Colonial Secretary in question was the Honourable James H. Jarrett; and the idea of a radio station was the brain child of Mr. David Salter—the Superintendent of the Telegraph Department and his deputy, Mr. L.J. Hughes—Lionel Justin Hughes. The station in those early years was used to broadcast hurricane warnings, the departure and arrival of Out Island Mail boats, messages to persons on the island and other important Government news items.

The life of a wireless operator in those days was no picnic. If equipment broke down and repairs could be effected on the spot, it would sometimes take weeks for someone traveling from Nassau, often on a sailing boat—to get the equipment in a working condition. I remember quite clearly some of my own experiences as I visited the islands in connection with Community Radio. Often, I had to travel on small boats with lots of goats, sheep, conch, fish and every kind of produce; and I tried to sleep among 15 to 20 passengers as well. On one occasion, I left Gallaway Cut, near Clarence Town, Long Island on a small boat 28 feet long.

The boat's name was "The Briant" and the captain was Mr. Grant who is now employed in the Ambulance Department at Princess Margaret Hospital. After we had been drifting off Exuma for four or five days, I sat down on the stern of the boat between a sack of corn and some billy goats to get a few winks of sleep, so I thought. Sometime later, I awakened with the feeling of heaviness about the head, only to discover that one of the chickens was roosting on my head. Possibly trying to make a nest there. So, if you look at the back of my head now, you will see where she tried to make a nest. A lovely souvenir of a magnificent location.

Of course we are speaking of 53 years ago before the advent of Transistor Radio, when radios in the out islands were expensive and few and far between. Radio would be set up by ZNS in the island and the residents would gather for a social chat and more so to hear the radio local news.

Today the marvels of Radio and Television are accepted as a matter of course, but those far off days these comparatively new forms of communication were sometimes looked upon with a certain amount of suspicion. For instance, there is the story of a mother on one of the Out Islands who refused to accept a telegram from her son in Nassau because it not in his handwriting. On one occasion, I arrived in a settlement to install a community radio, I gave the person in charge of the radio complete instructions of how to turn it on at 8:15 a.m. and 7:15 p.m. so that all who were interested could hear the News from ZNS in Nassau and then turn it off. Upon arrival back in the capital, I received a note from the Commissioner to the effect that after the Evening News, the radio tubes were taken out and taken on a crabbing expedition with the intention of using them as search lights.

These community radios were a great boom to persons in the Out Islands, as ZNS was listened to with apt attention and the News discussed by the inhabitants as they were on their way home. One evening, ZNS relayed a News bulletin from London during the war. London said that an air raid was in progress. After the Newscast was over, an old gentleman on the way home said to his companions "Boys, this sounds serious to me—but can any of you tell me how far progress is from London?"

My stint at ZNS lasted for 32 years—from 1938 to when I retired on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 1970. During that time, I served as anchor man for the first and second visits of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 11 and His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edingborough. I also served in that capacity for two visits of Her Royal Highness, Princess Margaret and also for the arrival of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, when the Duke arrived in 1940 to become Governor of the Colony. I performed the same services as anchor man for the arrival of President John F. Kennedy of the United States, the Rt. Hon. Harold McMillian, Prime Minister of Great Britain, and the Hon. John Diefenbaker, Prime Minister of Canada when they arrived at Nassau International Airport for the historic "Nassau Talk" in 1962.

I remember quite clearly interviewing some of the survivors of the ill fated "YAMATH CASTLE," a cruise ship which burned and sank near Great Isaac Light Station on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 1965.

I interviewed Captain Freddie Brown on the bridge of "The Bahamas Star" the ship which rescued survivors and brought them to Nassau.

I also anchored the first Out Island broadcast which originated in Harbour Island on Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 1945. The occasion was the memorial service for the late Hon. W.C.B. Johnson—speaker of the House of Assembly for 25 years and a member for 50 years. He held the record for missing only one meeting during that time, so that he could go to Miami, Florida for medical treatment.

The service and coverage were arranged by the late Mr. Kenneth Ingraham (O.B.E.) and the late Sir Alvin Braynen, who was the member of Parliament for the Harbour Island District at that time.

At this point, I would like to say a few words concerning the obligation and responsibility that Radio stations have in the Caribbean and are expected to live up to as far as humanly possible. Broadcasting is a living symbol of democracy, a significant and necessary instrument for maintaining freedom of expression. Its influence is of such magnitude that the only proper measure of its responsibility is the common good of all mankind. It is obliged to serve the people in such a manner as to reflect credit upon the profession, and to encourage aspiration towards a better life for all mankind.

It should provide for the fair discussion of matters of general public concern. It's news reporting should be factual, fair and without bias. Good taste is a must in the selection and handling of news. To observe the propriety and custom of civilized society, respect the rights and sensitivities of all people, honour the sanctity of marriage and the home, protect and uphold the dignity of brotherhood of all mankind, to enrich the daily life of the people through the factual reporting and analyses of the news, and through programmes of education, entertainment and information. Also, to provide for the fair discussion of matters of genuine public concerns, to engage in work directed towards the common good, volunteer, aid and comfort in times of stress and emergency.

To get to a more serious point, I want to give some very important information on the operating of a legal and illegal radio station in The Bahamas to the best of my ability, knowledge and experience.

The Broadcasting and Television Act is the sole authority under which all, and I empathize "all" – broadcasting radio and television can be done in the Bahamas. (I think it's page six item 3 – I haven't read it since 1970, but I read it a thousand times, and I stand to be corrected – page 6 item 3) and the only authority in The Bahamas who can issue a licence to operate any and I repeat – "any" broadcasting facility in The Bahamas. The same way one goes to get one's car licenced – you can't get it licenced without an insurance certificate. Be it radio or television, this authority is vested only in and under the Broadcasting Act which now operates ZNS. I have two major points to deal with today. Number one, to operate a legal radio station – for instance – ZNS that's a legal radio station as a matter of fact, I got 1540 from the Federal Communications Commission (USA). I forgot when I got the number to licence my car and when I went home, my wife said "that's not going to stay there," so she got a hammer and knocked it off. I lost 1540 as a car number—but ZNS still carries it.

To operate a legal private Radio Station anywhere in The Bahamas, possibly Nassau, having had this experience in getting 1540 for ZNS from the F.C.C., the present frequency of channel-1, I had to go through the same procedural requirements of the F.C.C. which still apply today. The Federal Communications Commission in Washington, D.C., U.S.A. issues all frequencies for all Caribbean Stations. We used to call their Manual "the Bible" of broadcasting. Without a frequency, there is no way you can operate. So therefore, the very first step is to apply to the F.C.C. for a frequency to operate a radio station in The Bahamas. They would then write to you asking for a feasibility study to be done by their consulting firm in Canada – the name of the firm – LeBlanc—to do the study– which is

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forward it to the F.C.C. in Washington—along with a copy of the licence from The Bahamas, approving the application to operate a radio station in The Bahamas. This has to be done for there is no other way. The feasibility study by LeBlanc would include engineering data, specification of everything – such as location of broadcasting site—area to cover – transmitter information—light—power—direction of antenna – this feasibility study is very, very expensive to do, but it is a must by the F.C.C. There is no doubt in my mind at all that Nassau, should have and can very well support another radio station, as the size of the population agrees with that. It used to be in my time based on a population of fifty or sixty thousand persons. Bermuda had three radio stations and a population of only 80,000 persons, so Nassau can support another radio station. However, I am equally sure and fully convinced that the present Broadcasting Commission will not comply or approve any application from any quarter for a licence to operate a private Radio Station.

I personally, during my turn as General Manager received many applications for another radio station and all were flatly refused. No question about that, and I don't believe that the situation or results will be any different today, under the existing conditions.

I feel a better way would be for those interested to try and get the present Broadcasting Act amended in the House of Assembly to try and correct things they believe are wrong with a view of providing the services to the Bahamian people to which they are so entitled, if they feel they are not getting them now. This is what I strongly recommend at this time. The only alternative would be to apply to the Broadcasting Corporation for a licence to operate another radio station. I believe you already know that answer.

Now I turn to the more important one. I would like to deal with the other point which is to operate a private radio station. To install and operate a radio station in The Bahamas, well to say the least, will be exciting to watch and see. How this is done or better put, can be done successfully – under the existing circumstances of the laws of The Bahamas, I don't know. I certainly cannot recommend this method and would never have anything to do with it whatsoever because it is illegal. You should and would have to go through the same procedure as required to operate a legal radio station. There is no difference, you would have to have a feasibility study, you must have a frequency, you must have a transmitter somewhere, so I don't think it is possible, but I stand to be corrected. The authorities would be aware of your transmission within five minutes and jam your signal and put you off the air permanently.

But that is not the worst part of it. The worst part is after you have been shut down by the law you can then be charged under Section 3 of the Broadcasting Act for operating without a licence – just like driving a car without a licence – you would be charged and may even get a jail term. The penalty is severe – all equipment can be confiscated. Under no condition do I recommend the above. However, I would gladly support the idea of another commercial radio station. The Bahamas is developing. All areas are developing. I know from my experience in putting and developing Radio ZNS on a commercial basis that the country can well afford it; and I would support it 102% - and that's a good average. If run efficiently and properly controlled, there is no logical reason as far as I can see and believe, that station should not be a profitable venture. I wish also to make it quite clear that all the above comments that I have said (made) here today are those of Mr. H.R. (Rusty) "O.K. Flour" Bethel and nobody else's and I stand behind them 100%. I firmly believe that another commercial radio station can be a success.

In conclusion, Mr. President I would again thank you and your club for this most enjoyable day, and for the lunch you have given. To the charming ladies present, I wish that I was 36 rather than 76 – but I am grateful and without any regrets.

Thank you and God bless you.

# THE GOSPEL SINGERS

The idea of starting a Gospel programme on ZNS Radio originated with the late Rev. Earl Weech and his wife, Violet. When the programme started, Rev. Weech was the pastor of Evangelistic Temple, on Kemp Road, which later moved to Centreville, New Providence and Mrs. Weech was in her early 20's.

Mrs. Weech recalls, "Our programme was aired every Sunday afternoon at 5 o'clock. There were no cars in The Bahamas at that time. My husband would have his guitar on his shoulder and I would be on the back of his bicycle every week as we rode to ZNS. Later, when Bahamians began importing cars, ZNS would send a taxi to our home to bring us to the studio. We became so popular that whenever ZNS wanted to get an announcement on the air, it would be done during the programme."

The programme began with the song, "God is still on the Throne."

Later, Mr. and Mrs. Weech were joined by another husband and wife team, Mr. Earl and Mrs. Helen Pritchard, making it a quartet.

On a weekly basis, "The Gospel Singers," received dozens of letters from persons in New Providence as well as the Out Islands, now Family Islands.

Recalling one of those letters, Mrs. Weech says, " Mr. Pritchard had a lovely voice. He would often sing Ship Ahoy. One week, we got a letter from someone in the Out Islands requesting Mr. Pritchard to sing Sugar Boy Again, referring to Ship Ahoy."

As there were few radio sets in the "Out Islands" in those days, this programme paved the way for Earl and Violet to establish churches in Eleuthera and other islands. They had become so popular that word of their arrival in the "Out Islands," spread quickly.

About one of these visits, Mrs. Weech says, "An elderly lady invited us to come to Palmetto Point. There was a big bell in the settlement to bring people together. So, they rang this bell to bring the residents together. The people crowded around us and it was difficult for my husband and I to get away from them."

Mrs. Weech, who paints at age 90, says, "I have many memories of the Gospel Singers and all of them are good."



## SUZANNE JEWERS



I had a very happy childhood, spent mostly in an island paradise – the isles of the Bahamas. Born in Nassau, Bahamas, February 27, 1933, of missionary parents, I had the privilege of living in quite a few places, wherever my parents were led by God at the time. My father was born in Newcastle, but spent his early life in Wolverhampton, until he went to war at around the age of 18 years old, with the Welsh Guards. My mother was born on the little island of Spanish Wells, Bahamas, where she remained until she met my father while on a trip to the island of Abaco, Bahamas, where she and my father fell in love. They were married later in Spanish Wells.

After my birth, my parents visited England, where I lived for a while, although I do not remember, as I was only two years old. As a family, my parents and I returned to the Bahama Islands, where they were engaged in missionary work until I attended school. I had the privilege of living in several Family islands as well as in Key West, Florida, for a while, taking the wonderful weather and beautiful beaches for granted.

My parents took up permanent residence in Nassau, still busy in the Lord's service, along with a small business at a later date. God gave me a sister, Margaret, when I was eight years of age. Around the same time, I began writing simple poems. I do not remember much of what I wrote, but others have told me that they have copies today of some poems I wrote. These poems were printed in *The Magpie*, the magazine of the school I attended, Queen's College, Nassau, Bahamas.

As I grew older, I continued writing poems, some of them tributes, which I wrote after the deaths of loved ones, friends and celebrities. The very first tribute I wrote was to my headmaster, R.P. Dyer. I remember taking this tribute to *The Nassau Tribune*. The newspaper published the tribute immediately. I was greatly encouraged, although I did not write any more tributes for a while. Gradually, the Lord began to impress this type of writing upon me as a ministry, and I have continued it until this day.

I took it for granted that everyone could write poetry, but as the years went by, I began to realize more and more that writing poetry was a gift from God. This gift was not to be taken lightly, but to be used for the glory of God, and the comfort, encouragement and enjoyment of others.

Today people ask me, "How does one begin to write a poem? Can you teach me to write poems?" Writing poetry is not exactly learned in school. However, certain skills learned in the art of writing, and experiences gained in living, help in writing a poem. Often, poetry reveals the character of the writer, and is something which is lived, not learned! Sometime an idea will come to one while sitting or lying down, even in the middle of the night. When this happens, one must get a pen or pencil immediately and write that idea down, or else it will vanish, never to return. Good ideas are too precious to waste, and often come from God Himself.

Travel through Great Britain and many countries of Europe; travel in Canada (British Columbia on the west coast and Ontario and Quebec in the east); travel on both the west and east coasts of the United States, plus a year's study in Chicago, Illinois, at The Moody Bible Institute, and an extended time of study at The Commonwealth Bible College, Nassau, Bahamas, have added many rich experiences to my life, which have enhanced my poems.



## **RON LIGHTBOURN**

Ron Lightbourn was an Announcer at ZNS from 1951-1952. Reflecting on his days at ZNS, he said, "We worked 7 days a week: a 3-hr and a 2hr shift every day, and a 4-hr shift on Sundays. The pay was 17 pounds 10 shillings a week." At that time, some of the other Announcers included Don Pritchard, Holly Brown, and Suzanne Jewers.

Gary Curry, who later became a Reverend, was a technician at the time – he became an Announcer one morning when I overslept and didn't turn up to open the station at 7:00 am."

After leaving ZNS, Mr. Lightbourn went to university to continue his studies.

# RECOLLECTIONS OF

## BARBARA CHATTERTON

### 1952-1956

"I joined ZNS as an Announcer in 1952 and remained there until 1956, when the Studio was located on East Street (next door to the Telecommunications building).

The station opened at 6 am each day and we worked four-hour shifts. During my first year, we operated the controls in the control room ourselves, but later on, as the station grew, control operators were employed. In those days, the Announcer on duty was required to read commercials, News etc. and play records selected for the programme. Once a week, I had my own programme, reading children's stories under the pseudonym, "Aunt Margaret." I was very encouraged by the fan mail I received from the Out Islands. I always looked forward to live programs performed in the studio. My favourite was George Symonette on the piano, accompanied by Peanuts Taylor on the drums, playing lovely Bahamian calypso songs. As a little boy, Peanuts would wave to me in the control room. There were other artists. The Roberts Trio, I remember well, singing Gospel songs. Church Ministers would also have their own programmes.



One particular morning, I remember the ZNS driver came to pick me up at 5:30 am to open the station. Unfortunately, I missed my ride. He probably thought I had already left. Fortunately, I ran to the end of the road and saw a construction crew coming by in a large truck, so I hailed them down and they stopped and picked me up and therefore, I arrived at the station just in time to open.

I guess my claim to fame in the public's eyes was my famous jingle, "When you need a Taxi, call... 35111" for the Meter Taxi Company. Many years later, after I had left ZNS, the Taxi company was happy to hear I was still alive, as they put it, so I was asked to re-do the jingle.

My job at ZNS was quite a challenge for me and I benefited much from my years there, full of happy and funny memories also."





## **ROSEMOND MEERS**

Ms. Rosemond Meers is a member of Christ Church Cathedral. Her family has a very long history at this church. Her grandfather was Rector of Christ Church long before it became a Cathedral.

As an active member in the church, she taught Sunday School classes. Since its inception, she was a member of the Anglican Church Women, ACW, having also served as one of its past Presidents and as secretary for a number of years.

She was the first Secretary at ZNS, and worked at the Royal Victoria Hotel and at John Bull. She is now retired.

## **PAMELA GRANGER**



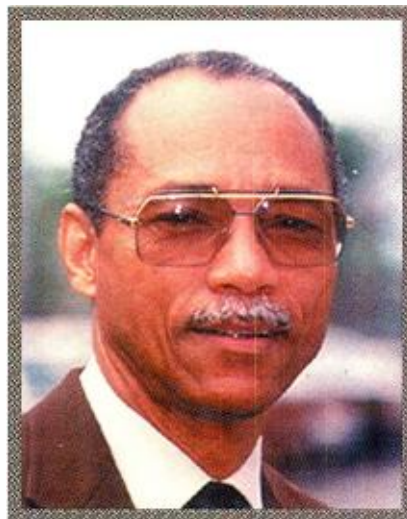
“I joined the staff of ZNS Radio in December, 1953 at the age of eighteen (18). I had just completed high school. I remained with ZNS until 1978.

My first position was that of Receptionist at the offices on East Street North. Shortly after this, I was employed in the Record Library. Later, I became a clerk in the Accounting Department where I prepared the invoices for all the paid advertisements on the log sheets as well as the monthly payroll. Following this, I served as Secretary to the General Manager at the time, Mr. Harcourt “Rusty” Bethel.

Following the introduction of Television Broadcasting, I became Administrative Officer with responsibility for Personnel. I was sent to Channel-10 in Miami to undertake an orientation course in organizing a television library. In the early 1970's, I was granted an in-service award to attend an eight-week training course in London. Additionally, in 1970, I accompanied Samuel Hepburn as delegates to the Commonwealth Broadcasting Conference in Jamaica.”

## ZNS OVER THE YEARS

BY  
CARL O. BETHEL



In the late 1950's, ZNS was an entity of which every Bahamian was very proud. One of the reasons could have been that it was the only radio station in The Bahamas at that time. Bahamians looked forward to the Newscasts of and about The Bahamas. Although it was not the kind of News that Bahamians hear on the airwaves today, yet it was something most important to every Bahamian.

During the early days of ZNS, there were few opportunities for Bahamians to "voice commercials." Often, one would only hear a very limited number of voices reading commercials. Three of these persons are now deceased. They are former General Manager of ZNS, H.R. "Rusty" Bethel, former Assistant General Manager of ZNS, Mr. Kim Jackson, and Don Pritchard. Bill Elliot is also added to this list of Announcers.

During this period, the entire ZNS staff did not exceed fifty (50) employees. The Bahamian members of staff included Berne Evans, Noel Hamilton, Victor Calendar, Louis Hanchell, Calsey Johnson, Albert Adderley, Mizpah Archer, Pamela Granger, Inglis Lowe, Leslie Cartwright, Samuel Hepburn, Lance Ferguson, Basil Ellis and Carl Bethel. Two other Bahamians, Eric Wilmot and Hubert Cash, served as News Editors.

During those years, General Manager, "Rusty" Bethel was the most popular Announcer of the day. His popularity came from a commercial that he read for many years. That commercial, read for OK Flour, carried the famous slogan, "Remember, if it's OK Flour, it's ok!"

"Rusty" Bethel also became popular because of the manner in which he announced the names of every Parliamentarian at the Opening of Parliament. Mr. Bethel once said that he "made it his business to know every Parliamentarian by both name and face." Therefore, every year on this occasion, he would be at the "House" announcing the names of every Parliamentarian, as they entered the Chambers of Parliament. When Ministerial Government was introduced, again, "Rusty" Bethel could be heard, calling each name along with their ministerial responsibilities, as they paraded into the "House."

The third reason that "Rusty" Bethel became popular among Bahamian Radio listeners was his "up to the minute hurricane reports" during the hurricane season. For a number of years, Mr. Bethel was the only individual who read the "Hurricane Announcements." If one were dealing with "ratings" in those days, Mr. Bethel would have received the highest score, especially from the Bahamian people. During that time, every Bahamian would be near their radios, listening to "Rusty" Bethel as he read quite slowly, the facts of the hurricane.

As is the case today, listeners in those days, never started to gather their hurricane supplies until they were quite certain that the hurricane was definitely "on the way." Someone reportedly said that whenever one heard "Rusty" Bethel on the air announcing details about the hurricane, then it was time to batten up one's house.

Mr. Bethel was indeed most famous for his very professional, deliberate method in delivering information, when a hurricane was approaching the Bahamas. As people listened intently, mothers could be heard telling their children to "shut up" because "Rusty" Bethel was giving the information about the hurricane, and they didn't want to miss anything.

After twenty-three (23) years of broadcasting from two locations, firstly, the "Snappy Hat Shop" on Shirley Street, and from the premises of the Telecommunications Department building on East Street, ZNS moved to its permanent location at Third Terrace East, Centreville, Nassau. That move took place in August, 1959.

On entering the era of the 1960's, many changes had begun taking place in The Bahamas. ZNS had upgraded its broadcast power and its style of music had begun changing. Another Radio Station was opened under the auspices of ZNS. Announcers, News and office staff, local and foreign, full-time and part-time, were being hired. These included Charles Carter, Nadeen Campbell-Beneby, Cindy Williams, Tony Lowe, Alx Curry, Ed Bethel and Jeff Scavella.

It was during the mid 1960's that ZNS News really took on a professional News format. Reporters were hired, and instead of hearing only the Community Announcements as before, News was now being heard, both from around The Bahamas and internationally.

Following the departure of former News Editor, Mrs. Heather Krohn, Mr. Calsey Johnson had assumed full responsibility for News. He had now re-organized the Newsroom into a professional Centre for News. The Sports Editor was Ed Bethel.

ZNS News had now become a News programme of the highest quality, at par with Bahamian Newspapers. Now, Bahamians had a News Service on which they could depend for "up-to-date" and "on the spot" broadcasting, with professional Bahamian Newscasters.

"Rusty" Bethel continued as General Manager of ZNS until 1970, when he retired after thirty years(30) of continuous laudable service in Broadcasting. Succeeding Mr. Bethel as General Manager was Mr. Jack Dodge, who formerly served as the Assistant General Manager.

Having made such strides in Broadcasting in such a short time, with the addition of good, Bahamian Broadcasters, ZNS was now thinking about the introduction of Television Broadcasting to The Bahamas. Again, ZNS organized professionals of Television organizations, to help with the inauguration of television broadcasting in The Bahamas.

## THELMA MARY DEVEAUX

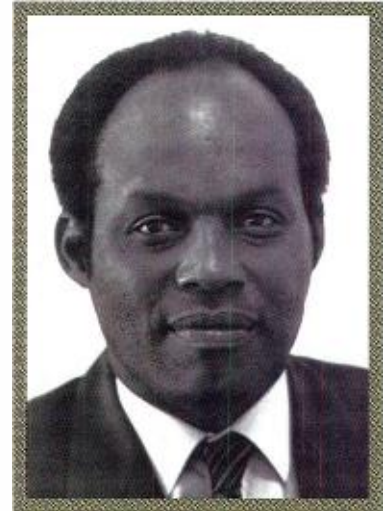


Thelma Deveaux joined the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 1958. Initially, she served as a clerk in the Radio Traffic Department and later became a Supervisor.

In 1977, when Television Broadcasting began in The Bahamas, she was transferred to the Television Traffic Department. In preparation for her duties in the Television Traffic Department, she underwent training at the Trinidad and Tobago Television Station.

Later, Ms. Deveaux was transferred to the Sales and Marketing Department where she held senior positions for a number of years. Her final position at the corporation was as Manager of Administration, Sales and Marketing. On August 8<sup>th</sup>, 1998, she retired from the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas.

## ZNS RADIO BY CHARLES CARTER



ZNS is only 70 years old. That surprises me, because at 62, I thought ZNS was way older than me. ZNS was always there: the voice of The Bahamas – whether that voice was Rusty’s, Ed’s or Carl Bethel’s; Calsey Johnson in the old days or Darold Miller nowadays, or Charles Carter’s.

I shouldn’t be surprised, though, because ZNS is as much a part of this generation as it is a part of mine. I’ve come across a gang of older people, many obviously senior to me, who tell me that when they were growing up in the islands, they used to listen to me on the radio. They forgot that I was a kid, when they were kids. They have also forgotten that ZNS has been transforming itself right before our eyes and in a sense, adapting to the marvelous changes that the 20<sup>th</sup> century have presented in media and media ownership – technically, politically or philosophically.

So, like the majority of Bahamians who live in The Bahamas, ZNS is a fixture of life in my lifetime and the fact that it is still a vital component of life in the opening moments of the 21<sup>st</sup> century Bahamas – whether we claim to listen or don’t listen, and claim to appreciate it or don’t – dramatizes the centrality of the state broadcasting entity in our existence thus far. ZNS at 70, though, is facing a vastly different Bahamas, and a Bahamian, who bears little resemblance to the one the service met when it commenced.

So this anniversary, happening at this time as it does, in the corporation’s, the country’s and in my own life is fortuitous because I want to speak to broadcasting in serious terms, and the urgency of us developing the notion of a true public broadcasting system for these times. It is obvious that state-run systems like ZNS risk obsolescence and need to reinvent themselves. The so called “traditional organs of communications” are being challenged here in our tiny spot on the globe and in the world over. Your over the air television station, your local radio station and daily newspapers face a competitive communications environment with an almost unlimited menu of choices dictated by a technological wonderland that is so utterly spellbinding it makes the 1990’s seem so quaintly old fashioned and the 20<sup>th</sup> century prehistoric: the ubiquitous cell phones, the encroaching i-pods and the world wide web are the technical icons of this wondering world that are becoming so affordable that one will not be able to soon exist without being wired. Resistance is futile.

Think about it! When Batelco completes its fiber communications infrastructure later this summer, it would mean that the little nation of The Bahamas would have two separate national systems, Cable Bahamas and BTC, one public, one private, capable of connecting every Bahamian to every audio and video source known to man including every radio and television station, every specialized satellite music format, every newspaper and pay-per-view event in the world within the comfort of his desired space – whether that’s a house, a room, or a tent in crowded Nassau, or on an isolated cay in the southern Bahamas. My view is that both systems will become operational simultaneously and those changes are already impacting ZNS – and, if it doesn’t already exist, ZNS needs a plan for its future. That plan, in my opinion, is one that causes the corporation to become a true public broadcasting service whose only interest is to project and protect The Bahamas unincumbered by any interest, save the education of the people of The Bahamas.

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More about that in a moment. Right now, I want to reminisce about the ZNS I grew up in – a world that is so quickly disappearing, and reflect on some of the moments, events and people I shall always cherish and love.

How could I not love ZNS?

I joined ZNS in late 1963. I was 20 years old and lost. I was still at New York University heading for my junior year in business administration but, in truth, I was more interested in the elective liberal arts subjects. I was in the drama club, wrote poetry and had an easy affinity with an artist like Tony Mackay whose deep cultural roots were on easy display as we hung out in the coffee shops where he would sometimes sing in Greenwich Village. Personally, I had some conflicts and had come to a point when I had to decide what direction my formal studies would take. ZNS was supposed to have been a respite, a temporary employment, that would allow me time to sort out what I would do with my life. The prevailing view in my family was that I would be at the station for maybe six months to a year, until I found myself, and decided things – the university of hard knocks would send me back to a real school and a real profession.

Nobody thought, not even some of the people I met there, thought I would actually like being there with so many other options in real life. I surprised everybody, including myself. I stayed for 16 years and daddy never forgave me.

Harcourt C. Carter was my father and, as I've matured over the years, I've grown to admire this man greatly. Such a fantastic provider and planner, he and my mom Mary, whose friends called her "Mae," were the perfect parents for any child who wanted to conquer the world. Dad prided himself on the successful enterprises he created: vending machines, ready-made blocks for construction sites and a string of record stores that were fixtures on Bay Street for over forty years – often as the only black merchant out there. Mom was his equal. Her upholstery business trained dozens of young women and her work graced the finest homes in The Bahamas – from the Eastern Road to Lyford Cay. My parents went to Japan in the 1960's and represented some of the biggest names in electronics decades before most business people knew that the far east factories would dominate the world.

They worked hard and there was no world they thought Bahamians could not master, especially their children. Dad had big ideas for his children and it started with our names: all the boys are named "Charles" although I am the only one who is called by that name. I am Edward Charles. Then, there are Franklin Delano Charles, Harcourt Charles, Harold Charles, Anthony Charles and Michael Charles. Neither did my sisters miss this coronation. Maria is Maria Cecelia and Madeline is Madeline Cecelia. His middle name, you might have guessed by now, was also Charles.

Only because confession is good for the soul and you probably know already, I named my two sons Edward Charles and Mark Douglas Charles. They have halted this dynastic madness by first having four girls and now, that there is a grandson, he is called Cayman after a cayman I am told.

I don't think any of us ever lived up to the high expectations dad had for us. Even when I was a Member of Parliament and a Cabinet Minister, he felt I was on a failed "trajectory," and asked me to consider going into the Church. He thought I should be a priest and come to Saint Agnes no less.

When I was 20, though, and it was 1963, my father wanted me to do the Bachelor of Science in Business and go on to study law in England. He thought I would "clean up" when I returned home, as a lawyer with a business degree, and he was right – of course. The only problem was, it was his plan and I wasn't sure that was what I wanted to do. That's when a wise grandmother stepped in and solved a crisis that had definitely loomed menacingly in our lives. You see, if you are not comfortable doing what daddy wanted you to do while you were under his roof then... the rest is obvious.

Grandmother, who was the original Madeline in our family, could hold her own with anyone including her “one and only son.” She lived to be 96 years of age and was a centrifugal force in the lives of all the Carters and extended families in the neighborhood. Fortunately, she was always there in our house on Augusta Street. So while mom and dad were out trailblazing, she kept the home together and always reminded her son that, though he did redo the structure, and had provided more than a mother could expect, the house was her’s. She also said that she heard on ZNS that morning that the station was looking for announcers and told me to “go try out.”

I did and only did well enough to get a position on probation. Of course I didn’t know “a lick about announcing,” but thank God for a gentleman named Carl Bethel. Carl took me under his wing, came to my house on Augusta Street with commercials, News and weather forecasts in hand and had me practice reading until I was passable. Even today I still go into a studio and run through drills, I would not have made it without Carl because ZNS was so intimidating and precise in those days. ZNS was expected to be the standard for the spoken word and I didn’t want to fail. Then, there was this other thing, it seemed like black announcers didn’t last too long in those days. Carl was the only black announcer on the air when I came there. He lasted the longest though there were a couple others. Carl is still the only one around. The others are all now deceased: Berne Evans, Basil Cooper (Baz Jazz) and Noel Hamilton who did the classical stuff on ZNS 2 at the time. Gordon Lowe’s older brother, a banker, used to come in part-time in those days. His name Tony Lowe. His sense of humor was legendary. He nearly got me fired. One day I was reading the community announcements in the studio. Now these are the late 60’s and early 70’s and ZNS was just not the only station in The Bahamas, but the audience was so intense in those days, that if you made a mistake it would provoke calls to the station manager and letters to the editor. I thought I was getting the hang of this broadcasting thing, too, and one of the tips I took to heart from Kim Jackson, the BBC-trained assistant manager, was that when you reached the obituaries in the community announcements, you should always lower your voice respectfully when you called the name of the deceased.

So when you said that “funeral services for Mr. John Rolle will be held tomorrow” at such a time and in such and such a church, you should lower your voice, pause, then call the name in a somber, respectful way. I did that well and was doing it well one evening, until I noticed, in the corner of my eye, that Tony Lowe was dropping his pants. I could not contain my laughter. Tears came down my cheeks and I turned the mike off, to compose myself. Every time, I turned the mike on, I would begin to laugh uncontrollably again. All the audience heard, including bereaved families all over the country, was that I was “killing myself laughing,” while I was announcing those death announcements. Had they seen what I saw: those skinny white legs coming out of those pants and that red-striped drawers Tony was wearing, they would laugh too.

ZNS had a wonderful cadre of professional broadcasters from around the world and I benefited from everyone of them. Kim Jackson was from England, Kirby Brooks and Frank Warren were Americans, Fred Brickenden and Jack Dodge were from Canada. However, the most interesting broadcaster of the all was one Harcourt “Rusty” Bethel from Cherokee Sound, Abaco. If anybody could be called “the father of Bahamian broadcasting” it is this gentleman. He and I came from different worlds, and generations, but the one thing I learned, and liked about him immensely, was that he cared for the profession and the station as no one did.

ZNS again, as the only station in the country in those days, had what used to be called a “block format” that tried to cater to all tastes over the course of a broadcast week. So at different times, and on different days, we would feature the full variety of styles in music: American, calypso, jazz, country, etc. Well for the kids, every afternoon from 3 to 5, we played popular music in a show called “the top 30” and, as the youngest announcer on the station, they gave me the afternoon shift that included this show.



Well, I decided I wasn't going to have a dead show – after all this is the show all my friends listened to and as I would be playing all the popular songs of the era: Jerry Butler, Sam Cooke, Otis Redding and everything out of Motown. This programme needed some New York style and flair. A hot show needed a hot personality, so I called myself “the lovable C after three,” described myself as “Tall, dark and handsome” and promptly called the programme “the Charles Carter top 30 show.” This was very “un-ZNS” in those days and too American for the station that prided itself on its BBC antecedents and conservatism. Don't forget “Love alone, cause King Edward to leave the throne” Blind Blake's classic, though popular around the world and in local nightclubs, was banned from air-play as being anti-royal by this administration. Well, when that studio door was pulled open, it felt like a gale had hit it and I really didn't have to turn around to know that the imposing figure of Rusty Bethel, all 6ft. 5inches of him, was standing over me. I really thought I was gone then. Even now forty two years after the event, I am intimidated by the memory of an irate Rusty Bethel who informed me, in that thunderous voice he possessed, that “Charles Carter aint got no damn show on ZNS and every show is a ZNS show” and, never gain, to announce my name on the radio.. nobody cared who I was.

Fortunately, times changed and so did Mr. Bethel and his appreciation of what I thought broadcasting should be doing for the country. It was while he was General Manager that, I believe, I made my most useful contribution to broadcasting in our country with the development of the “Young Bahamian Show.”

Calsey Johnson and Ed Bethel were the first Bahamians to make it on the air on the News side and all of us and dozens other benefited from a ZNS that remains to this day the training ground for our country's top broadcasters. How could I not like ZNS and appreciate what the corporation , and through it, the government and the people, have done to make my life what it is today. My story began with the frustration, common to most youngsters, of not knowing what one wants to do with one's life. I went back to school three times (twice to Toronto, at Ryerson, and then the certificate course in public administration at the University of Manchester) compliments of ZNS in-service awards and I excelled. But more importantly, I learned the importance of communications and became a witness to the birth of a nation- my own.

Since its development, ZNS has been the eyewitness to our history. That notion took root in the late 60's after January 10<sup>th</sup> ,1967, Majority Rule Day. The political victory of the Progressive Liberal Party unshackled all Bahamians from the past and to begin collectively to appreciate who we were as a people. It inspired me to get ZNS to do what it should have been doing all along, what public broadcasters should take pride in doing, and that is telling the Bahamian story- our story.

It is a natural instinct to be interested in one's history. I was fascinated by it. In my immediate family, there was my grand uncle, Harold McKinney, with whom I lived in New York from ages 13 to 20. He was my dad's uncle who were all a part of a group of Bahamians who left home and settled in the United States prior to World War 2 and did incredibly well. We lived in a three- storey house in East Elmhurst, Long Island that was at that time (1958-1961) an integrated neighbourhood where it was more common to be Jewish and Italian than Black and West Indian. Uncle Harold was a proud man, who abjured small minds and petty people. His tales about growing up in Matthew Town, Inagua in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when the population there was over five thousand and people routinely spoke more than one language, were unforgettable, as were the accounts of the great vessels that stopped frequently to pick up salt for North American cities and Bahamian workers for the construction of the Panama Canal. It was not unusual that the doctor or dentist was from Port-au-Pais. In those days, Inaguans looked south to Haiti and Cuba and seldomly north. He even took me to visit two great grand aunts living in Harlem, originally from Inagua, who had never been to Nassau.

A hundred years later in 2006, if one were interested, one can still see vestiges of the old railroad tracks in Matthew Town, copies of the newspaper that was published to serve this thriving community and a map of the layout of the town with the names of the families who once lived there in the library. Many of us still have families in Panama City. If you ever get there, just look at the telephone directory. You will be surprised.

Mom's heritage was even more fascinating. Her father was a Heastie and her mom a Bethell. We are related to every Hanna, Heastie and Tynes in the World. When she came to New York, she took me to see her side of the family which included a "Heastie" who, descended from the family in Acklins, and was the first Black Governor in the United States—albeit, the Virgin Islands a U.S. territory. The Bethells are equally interesting. When I tell people that there is a white and black side to most of the original families in The Bahamas, the Bethells are a good example – whether you spell that with one or two "l's".

So, how is it possible to go through twelve years of formal education in The Bahamas and learn nothing about The Bahamas or more about me than I knew of myself. I "discovered" Joseph Spence in 1970 in a record store on Young Street in Toronto and could not believe that I was ignorant of such a huge slice of Bahamian culture. Moreover, because my father had all these record stores in Nassau, and by that time I had been in ZNS for six years and was considered a Bahamian music specialist, I made it a point to educate myself about The Bahamas – about our history, culture and people who make up these islands. That journey caused me to create the "Young Bahamian Show" in the 60's and to continue that adventure 40 years later with the "Bahamians" series. Through it all, I was facilitated by the Broadcasting Corporation of the Bahamas – this ZNS that has learned to appreciate that it has a unique relationship with this country and its people. Stray from it and ZNS becomes ordinary and superfluous.

In a capsule form, that would be my recommendation to ZNS going forward: ZNS needs to become the model for public service.

Smart people in this country recognize the importance of ZNS, or better put, the role that ZNS plays in all our lives. The corporation is still the primary source of information in The Bahamas because it is in more communities and accessible to more Bahamians day-to-day, 365 days a year. If you want to know what's happening in this country, or better still, what the government decides it is going to do, monitor ZNS. If you want to hear what the government ought to be doing, you can also hear that on ZNS as well – not because of any inherent sense of balance, but because ZNS has seen it all (UBP, PLP, FNM and PLP again) and every shade of political opinion presents itself at some stage. Just listen carefully.

ZNS, after all the hurrah about private radio, is still big in all our lives, large and in charge, like it or lump it, because we are paying for it – even if some of us claim not to watch or listen. It's like going to Doctor's Hospital, but keeping an open tab at the Princess Margaret Hospital. So whether Love, Island or 100 JAMZ is our medium of choice, we are still paying for ZNS. That's the way it is, and will be too, until someone comes up with a new concept or role for the Broadcasting Corporation of the Bahamas, that we the public are willing to endorse and fund.

I really don't see that happening right now.

Happy Birthday!



# MY LIFE AS A REPORTER AT ZNS

## BY ED BETHEL



In 1963 when I joined ZNS, the renowned “Bay Street Boys,” the powerful group of merchant–politicians dominated the colony. Roland Symonette was Government Leader and Lynden Pindling was Leader of the Opposition.

Dame Ivy Dumont was a public School Teacher. Perry Christie was being trained as a British Attorney. Obie Wilchombe was in kindergarten. Rusty Bethel was ZNS G.M. Anthony Foster was a high school student. There was no regular “black voices” on the airwaves of ZNS.

In the Newsroom, I met Heather Woods-Krohne, the British News Director, Calsey Johnson, Reporter and Wilma Armbrister, News Clerk. I became the fourth member of the ZNS News team in March 1963 and was assigned as a Sports Reporter.

There were no portable tape recorders in the Newsroom. If you wanted to use the 10-pound tape recorder you had to seek management’s approval.

There were no audio inserts in the Newscasts. The News consisted primarily of items from the Police and Courts, Fire Department and Hospital, Shipping News and the Community Announcements. It was “Rip and Read.”

Black clergymen were not allowed to conduct “Morning Devotions,” nor were black churches invited on the weekly Sunday live worship services. Eventually, that all changed in 1967 when the Progressive Liberal Party became the Government. That was the state of Broadcasting in 1963.

During the seventies, the Newsroom was full of cub reporters. Among them were: Mike Smith, Kirk Smith, Peter Bowleg, Lionel Dorsett, Wendal Jones, Jeff Lloyd, Kendal Wright, Edgar Williams, Chris Thompson, Al Dilletta and others, and I was their News Director. We were an ambitious group. Each night we would critique the newscast and impose a fine of a quarter on every reporter who stumbled or mispronounced a word on air. Then, we would send out for beers and hang around the newsroom talking about our craft. We were consumed by our craft. When my daughter Lisa was born in 1967, I left the hospital just minutes before her birth to read the Sunday morning news. I learned of her birth via telephone from Nurse Eloise Nichols who admonished me for having left. And when my son, Wayne came into the world on April 11, 1968, Wilma Armbrister telephoned with the good news. I was broadcasting from Nassau International Airport where Prime Minister Pindling had returned from Andros.

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He had won the General Elections and a motorcade was taking him into the city. My children grew up chasing Police sirens with me.

During my years (1963-1993), I had the great privilege of covering many of the events that shaped the last half of the century. I have been half way around the globe and have met many world leaders and celebrities. In those years I visited every major Bahamian Island and have come to know many inhabitants in all the islands. You may ask, what is my perspective on Independence 1973. What was my experience covering an event of such a magnitude? Space will not allow me to mention all the events here but I'll comment briefly on a few. There are two categories of events, Memorable and Unforgettable. Memorable Moments range from "Black Tuesday," April 27, 1965 to the General Elections of 1967 and 1968. Who can forget the most popular Olympics medal ceremony of all time. The photographs of two black American sprinters, Tommie Smith and John Carlos standing on the medal podium with heads bowed and raised fists at the Mexico City Olympics in 1968. The tragic fire and sinking of the Cruise ship Yarmouth Castle. The Consecration of Michael Eldon as Bishop of the Anglican Church. The House of Commons debate on the Bahamas Independence Bill in May 1973. The visit of Pope Paul 11 to Nassau on February 1, 1979 and the sinking of HMS Flamingo off Ragged Island by Cuban Mig fighters on May 10, 1980.

There are eight Unforgettable Moments. Four of them took place in 1973, the year of our Independence. Nothing, but nothing surpasses the night of July 9, 1973, when along with Charles Carter and Carl Bethel, I was the third anchor for the Independence Flag Raising Ceremony at Clifford Park. Jubilant crowds were pouring all over Clifford Park and when the Bahamian Flag had ascended the flag pole in a chance breeze and the singing of March On Bahama Land ended and fire works lit up the park, I can't convey to you what it was like. My heart pumped faster than when as a high school boy I had won the mile race.

The next Unforgettable Moment occurred on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1973 when I was privileged to be the anchor of the Swearing-In Ceremony of Sir Milo Butler as the first Bahamian-born Governor General. Later that day, I accompanied Prime Minister Pindling to Ottawa, Canada, to cover the Bahamas first meeting of Commonwealth Heads Of Government. When the meeting opened and the prime minister and Mrs. Pindling walked into the huge hall to take their position with the rest of the Commonwealth Heads, a pride of being Bahamian swelled my small chest as never before.

On September 18<sup>th</sup>, 1973, the Bahamas was admitted as a member of the United Nations and from New York "Live" I had the great honour to announce that historic moment to our nation.

The next Unforgettable Moment was the live blow-by-blow broadcast from Paris, France, on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 1975 announcing that Elisha Obed had become the first Bahamian to win a World Boxing Championship.

If ever there was a feeling of personal pride, it has to be July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1977. At 5 p.m. when my image appeared on the television screen with Calsey Johnson and Charles Carter as ZNS Television went on the air for the first time, I was standing with Prime Minister Pindling and a Consultant from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC). When the ZNS TV 13 Logo came on, the Consultant said to me, "Well done, Ed, you beat us. When the CBC signed on for the first time, he said, the Logo went on upside down. You all did it without a flaw and in colour too." All of us in the room cheered loudly and raised our champagne glasses triumphantly.

### **1985 NASSAU CHOGM**

For ten days in October 1985, The Bahamas was host to the Commonwealth of Nations, bringing Commonwealth Heads of Government to Nassau for the first time in the history of the group. It was the meeting that paved the way to end Apartheid in South Africa and Prime Minister Pindling was Chairman of the Commonwealth. The night it ended I remember Colin Trotman, a young TV production assistant saying to me, "Chief, I don't want this to end. Can we do one more show?" We had hosted the entire leadership of the Commonwealth and their broadcasters also. The BBC, CBS, ABC and 40 plus other Broadcasting Corporations. They were highly impressed with us "local broadcasters."

### **1992 GENERAL ELECTIONS**

The 1992 General Elections on August 19 will forever be Unforgettable for it was when the PLP lost to the Free National Movement, after 25 years in power. I had anchored every General Election since 1968 and never did I experience such broadcast disaster with staff. I will never forget when I announced the returns from South Beach and St. Agnes and the FNM candidates were leading. All I could hear in my ear-phones was profanity. The crew in the control room was rejoicing, shouting out, "Good the..... Gone" !

I looked around and the score-keepers had stopped keeping score. The staff had mutinied. I took a commercial break and requested the crew to behave more professionally. At the same time, the GM Louis Hanchell told me that Obie Wilchombe, the reporter in Andros with Prime Minister Pindling and he said that he wished to make a concession statement. The phone hookup in the TV control room was not working. I asked Obie to return a call directly to the radio Newsroom. He did. I recorded Prime Minister Pindling's statement and returned to the TV control room and went back on air and introduced the Prime Minister's statement. When it was over, I asked Kirk Smith to wrap-up the interviews with the political analysts. When Kirk was finished, I announced that the FNM was the new Government and congratulated Prime Minister elect Hubert Ingraham, saying that it was my hope that he would continue to "rule the Bahamas in peace, love and prosperity." We then signed off. In the TV control room, jubilation erupted. I was unaware that the heavens had opened up and rain, lightning and thunder roared in the sky. I went home tired and exhausted. The following morning, Richard Crawford, the media critic telephoned me. He said, "Ed you were professionally excellent. That weekend I clipped out a piece from his column written on the election coverage of ZNS. He wrote "Ed Bethel in Excelsior."

### **THE NORTHERN SERVICE**

I had the privilege of leading the Northern Service in Freeport, Grand Bahama, twice. The first was in 1976-77 where I met a group of young energetic radio personalities. They included Bill Bain, Elvis "Swinger" Hepburn, Kirk "Muscle Killer" Russell and Obie Wilchombe. Together we established several new programmes. We started a phone-in request show called, "You Say It, I play It," with Kirk Russell as host. We extended the newscasts and christened the morning report, "Newsbeat" and the evening report "News Night." We also expanded our "Remote Broadcasts."

I'll never forget the morning of January 19<sup>th</sup>, 1977. I was awoken by a knock on my door. The voices were that of Obie Wilchombe and Kirk Russell saying, "Chief it's snowing, it's snowing." I thought it was a joke but when I went outside ice was falling. It was the coldest day I have ever experienced in The Bahamas. We scurried off in the Mobile Van to the "Fishing Hole" area where we spent the entire day broadcasting live from the scene the events of that day. The Meterology Department officially said "granular snow" had fallen. It was a day to always remember.

So how do you sum up thirty years of reporting? Allow me to paraphrase Gladys Knight, "I had my share of life's ups and downs. But fate's been kind, the downs have been few. I guess you could say that I've been lucky. Well, I guess you could say that it's all because of my falling in love with another broadcaster, my beautiful wife, Dawne. Cause she's the best thing that ever happened to me at ZNS."

Ed Bethel began his career in journalism in 1959 at the Nassau Tribune. He joined ZNS in 1963. In 1990, Mr. Bethel served briefly as Press Attache' at The Bahamas Embassy in Washington, DC. In 1993, he was appointed Executive Director of The Bahamas Information Services. In 1996, he joined the News Department of Love 97 and The Bahama Journal as Deputy General Manager of News. He was appointed Consul General of The Bahamas to New York in January, 2003. Mr. Bethel is married to the former Dawne Hanna-Adderley and is the father of four children and one stepson.



*PHOTOS Courtesy: ZNS Archives*

## MARY A. KELLY

Mary A. Kelly, was a pioneer in American television with NBC and worked on the origination of a programme called "TODAY" which first aired in January, 1952. On that first broadcast, she worked with Dave Garroway.

As Producer, Reporter and Talent Coordinator of the "TODAY" programme, she travelled worldwide. Her more memorable trips included covering the Wedding Ceremony of Grace Kelly and Prince Ranier of Monaco and broadcasting directly from the plane making the inaugural flight over the North Pole. She also toured the world on a promotional trip for "TODAY" with J. Fred Muggs, the chimpanzee.

In 1945, Mary Kelly began her career in journalism by accepting a job as a Copywriter with the "New York Times." She recalled that persons in this position were never allowed in the News Room.

From 1947-1949, she was employed at King Features Syndicate, then part of International News Service. The company sent her to Columbia School of Journalism, where she as a full-time employee, studied at night school for a year.

Following this, Mary worked in various areas in the American Television industry. Due to health reasons, Mary became inactive in television broadcasting. Seeking recovery, she relocated to Nassau in 1960. She said, "It worked... and I never went back North permanently."

She created and hosted the longest running broadcast in The Bahamas in the 1980's- "Mary's Notebook." This weekly Talk Show was first aired in 1962.

In 1968, she began interviewing Bahamian Prime Minister, the late Sir Lynden O. Pindling on his first anniversary in power. She continued this yearly interview for seventeen (17) consecutive years on "Notebook."

Aired at 5:30 p.m. each Friday, "Mary's Notebook" had covered virtually every event in The Bahamas. One radio listener said, "Every Bahamian organization wishing help sought and received Mary's help on this excellent show."

The voice of the late Mary Kelly was recorded in various announcements for professional and charitable organizations in The Bahamas.







## NADEEN CAMPBELL-BENEBY

Thirty eight (38) years ago, we entered the doors of ZNS to participate in the awesome challenge and responsibility of effecting and influencing the lives of thousands of people through the power of ZNS. Of course, we did not understand the powerful psychology of broadcasting at that time, as that came with experience. Cindy Williams and I were the very first black Bahamian women to be “on air.” Initially, our male counterparts were not too accommodating. We were barking at their masculine domain. However, they discovered that we were equal to the challenge and we were accepted.

Cindy and I both had our undergraduate education in Canada. She in Montreal and I in Albertha.

I am grateful for the unstinting efforts of Carl Bethel and John Cash in taking us through the ropes and for the support of Louis Hanchell.

The opportunity to study broadcasting at Ryerson University in Canada and at Syracuse University was critical in my success as a professional broadcaster.

Mr. Walter Wisdom and Dr. Calsey Johnson believed in me and allowed me to purchase books to start our library. I trust that it has expanded tremendously.

Were there highlights? Of course. Working on air on ZNS-2, preparing “Saturday Magazine,” “Housewives Choice” and interviewing so many wonderful people, local and international. There were opportunities of participating in the Independence celebrations, covering the visit of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II, visiting the United Nations Radio and Television station, the Voice of America and sitting in Walter Cronkite’s chair in his New York office.

The super highlights were the programmes “Between us Women” and the first television programme produced and hosted by a woman, “In Touch.” Elva Rolle and Lithera Dean Coakley were the directors. My cherished possession from ZNS is a plaque given to me in 1975 for the most original programme, “Recognizing and honouring Outstanding Bahamian Women throughout the archipelago.” There were times of levity, when we produced such shows as “When you get right down to it,” or “Let’s do it again,” when we raised funds to help the needy in the community. Oops, I almost forgot the Christmas when a man came in tears in the Community Page window. Someone had stolen his fat pig that he planned to have for his dinner. Gordon Lowe did not come to my rescue when I read the announcement. Hence, there were tears and peals of laughter.

Thirty-eight (38) years, when ZNS was in its prime, the staff was dedicated, committed and caring. I am sure these attributes still abound and the same ideals still exist to leave ZNS a little better than we met it.

I loved the years at ZNS, 1968-1979. I met my husband and had our three children during that time.

Presently, I am still informing, educating and influencing our young people in the halls of learning and I pray that they will make a significant difference in our nation.

Congratulations ZNS!

## ELVA RUSSELL-ROLLE

Elva Russell-Rolle was born in Nassau, Bahamas. She is the second of eight children born to Inez and the late Otis Russell. Elva grew up in an environment where emphasis was placed on “love and good home-teaching.” Education was viewed as a priority and a step in becoming independent.

Elva spent her high school days at Xavier’s College. While there, she was a part of the first group of students to attend the Nassau Technical Institute, which pioneered the College of The Bahamas in 1964.

Following graduation, Elva worked at one of the Scotia Bank branches in Nassau for two years, before attending Levitan Business School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. While there, she realized that she was not interested in Secretarial Science. Instead, she used her inherent flare for entertainment and actively pursued a career in broadcasting.



Philadelphia was an ideal place for Elva. The musical and theatrical expressions had made it an epiphany. Elva wanted to be a part of this world, but in her own country. Broadcasting appeared to be the answer.

Elva was greatly influenced by a female Television Anchor, Edith Huggins, who seemed to be able to balance career and family. She felt as though she could do the same. Hence, she relocated to Boston, Massachusetts, to attend Graham Junior College, the best available school for broadcasting at that time. Initially, she considered studying Television Performance, but she soon realized that her talent and love were in Television Production. The rest is history.

Mrs. Russell-Rolle also has a degree in English Language and Literature from the University of Miami.

She began her career at ZNS as an Apprentice in the Summer, 1969. The following year, after graduating with an Associate’s Degree in Communication, she secured a permanent position.

In the 1970’s, she worked every shift except “music til dawn” and was able to handle herself just like the “big boys,” Charles Carter, Calsey Johnson, Carl Bethel and Reg Smith. She performed her duties effectively and efficiently.

In addition to her regular Radio shift, where she produced programmes such as “Housewives Choice,” “Emphasis on Modern Living,” and “Team Challenge,” Elva was a part of the Evening News team, reading International News and the Weather Report.

Elva believes that her greatest contribution in Radio was interviewing practically every female group in Nassau and the Family Islands for the “Green Papers” in preparation for The Bahamas becoming an independent nation.

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Reminiscing, she said, "Taking out recording equipment, queing and editing tape was a skill you learned, or got left behind. So you did what you had to do."

In 1976, in preparation for Television Broadcasting in The Bahamas, Elva was a member of a group of twelve (12) Bahamians (ten men – two women) who underwent three months of intensive training in Canada. This course was specifically designed for Bahamian television personnel by Ryerson Polytechnical Institute and the Canadian Broadcasting Company. It included all aspects of television and was considered "tough." The CBC said it was the most intense course ever conducted in that country.

Her love for broadcasting was never financially rewarding, but she was encouraged by the opportunity to develop programmes to inform and educate the Bahamian public.

She was the original Producer and Director of "Its Academic," and a provocative show called, "Woman." She also directed, "Focus," produced by Charles Carter, "In Touch," produced by Nadeen Campbell-Beneby and many other pioneering Bahamian Television programmes.

She noted the live broadcast of the funeral service for the First Bahamian Governor General, Sir Milo Butler and the service for the fallen members of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force, killed by Cubans, as two important national events.

In addition to her duties at ZNS, Elva was always swamped with requests to serve as Mistress of Ceremony "MC," at shows in various schools, churches and at social events in Nassau and the Family Islands.

For inspiring hope and possibility in the field of broadcasting, Elva was honoured by the United States Embassy in conjunction with the College of the Bahamas, on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2004.

About broadcasting, Elva says, "My love for broadcasting is still in my heart, but I have found so many other ways to bring out my creativity. Lately, I have been dabbling in oil painting, photography, and stained glass. My real hobby is gardening and you can get lost in that world of soil, floral design, colour and wonder."

For the last twenty years, Elva has been a Financial Planner, offering services through the Life and Health Insurance Company.

Elva is married to Anthony Rolle, former Member of Parliament for Carmichael and former Bahamas Ambassador to the United Nations. They are proud of their children, Tracee Lightbourne, Dr. Gemma Rolle, Andrew Rolle and a son-in-law, Corey Lightbourne.

A Baptist, she is a member of Bethel Baptist Church, pastored by Reverend Timothy Stewart. She is a member of the Horticultural Society, the Orchid Society and former President of the Carver Garden Club.



## **ELEANOR DELORES HEPBURN**

Mrs. Eleanor Hepburn (nee Bain) began her career in broadcasting when she joined the Broadcasting Corporation of the Bahamas on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1970, as a News Clerk under the supervision of Mr. Ed Bethel.

In 1981, she was promoted to the position of Confidential Secretary to the General Manager, Mr. Calsey Johnson. A few years later, she became Administrative Assistant and Senior Administrative Assistant to the General Manager. She has also served as Secretary to the Board of the Broadcasting Corporation of the Bahamas and as Senior Administrative Assistant in the Marketing and Sales Department.

As a committed employee, she made a meaningful contribution to the growth and development of the Corporation.

In May 1995, she became the first Certified Professional Secretary at the Broadcasting Corporation of the Bahamas. Over the years, she has received numerous certificates in leadership courses.

After successfully completing thirty (30) years of service in broadcasting, Mrs. Hepburn retired to pursue other interests. Immediately after her retirement, she enrolled in a Cosmetology Course at the Bahamas Technical and Vocational Institute, BTVI, where she graduated with honours in Facial Technology. Determined to further her knowledge, several months later, she entered the Southeastern School of Neuromuscular and Massage Therapy in Columbia, South Carolina, where she obtained a diploma in Massage Technology in 2002.

Mrs. Hepburn is a proud mother of two children, Mrs. Erica Hepburn-Wade and Benjamin Hepburn and two grandchildren, Kylah Monet Wade and Kaden Reomero Wade.

She is a member of Bahamas Faith Ministries International, where she is presently employed. She is also a member of the Diplomat Chorale and a Charter Member of the Sunny Isles Chapter of the International Association of Administrative and Professionals Association.

## DEBORAH A. BARTLETT

Deborah Bartlett has more than twenty-seven (27) years of experience in the broadcast industry. For twenty (20) of those years, she served in various capacities at the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas. She moved up the ladder to become Assistant General Manager of Television.

She received national recognition for the high quality of her work as a Journalist, and as a former Talk Show Host of the highly successful Television show, "Reaction."

Deborah has interviewed business and political leaders in The Bahamas and worldwide. These leaders include the following:

Former South African President, Nelson Mandela  
 Former President of the United States, Bill Clinton  
 Former President of Haiti, Jean Bertrand Aristide  
 Chairman of Heinz, Dr. Tony O'Reilly  
 Former Prime Ministers of The Bahamas, the Right Honourable Hubert Ingraham and the late Sir Lynden Pindling



She is the Founder and President of the "C.E.O Network" and Bartlett-McWeeney Communications.

Deborah's passion is, "For ALL persons to feel empowered by the values of Ethics and Excellence." Acknowledging that "ALL" persons can achieve success, she was inspired to establish the CEO Network. To date, the C.E.O. Network has facilitated several ground-breaking investment opportunities between Bahamian and American investors.

As an entrepreneur, Deborah enjoys working with the Office of the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Perry Christie and other Government Ministries.

Bartlett-McWeeney Communications, BMC, is a multi-media company that provides consultancy, public relations, publishing and radio and television production services. BMC was recently granted a radio licence by the Government of The Bahamas.

Acknowledged as a charismatic public speaker with a solid message, Deborah customizes her keynotes and training seminars to meet specific needs, themes and objectives, while captivating her audience with interaction and humour.

She is also an accomplished motivational speaker, yielding phenomenal results in her seminars throughout the United States and the Caribbean.

Deborah's extensive experience and high profile image have established her among her peers as a successful visionary leader, capable of achieving anything she sets out to accomplish.

**A  
NEW DAY  
DAWNING**

From its beginning, Broadcasting in The Bahamas has always been controlled and operated by the Government. This has not changed in its 70-year history, and today, the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas is a public Corporation established by statute from which its Board of Directors derives its responsibility and authority.

The Board of Directors is appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of the Prime Minister and its members are responsible to a Government Minister for enforcing the policies of the Corporation. In light of this, every Board appointed, comprised persons who shared the vision of the Government of the day. The members were committed to effecting the stated policies and objectives of the Government.

This was evident of the first Advisory Committee appointed in 1937 "to be responsible for the formal opening and subsequent operation of The Bahamas Broadcasting Station." The Members of the Committee were selected from the "Ruling Class" and were loyal to the Colonial establishment which had as its Mission in broadcasting, "the projection of British ideas."

Before long, these ideas began to be challenged. The early 1940's ushered in the labour movement. Shortly thereafter, people who were more enlightened, better educated and politically aware, were demanding more participation in the affairs of the colony for the good of the masses, and their demands affected broadcasting.

The Broadcasting Act and The Broadcasting Rules by which ZNS-Radio operates were formulated and they are incorporated into the Statute Law of The Bahamas, and remain the authority by which the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas operates. However, they are constantly under attack and challenged by Political Parties in opposition to the Government as being unfair, unbalanced and always giving the Government an unfair advantage. Additionally, ZNS had the monopoly in broadcasting and was proven to be the most effective communication medium.

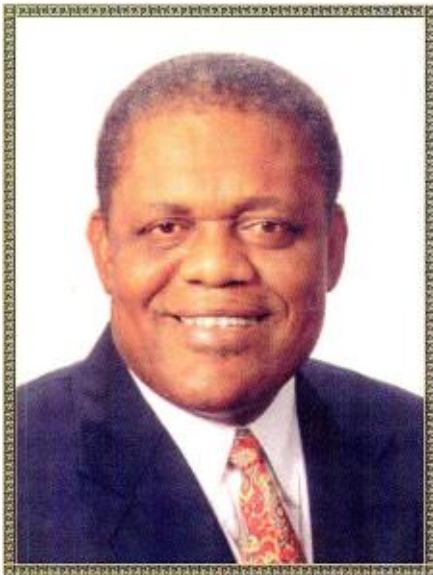
When The Bahamas was governed by the United Bahamian Party (UBP), it was regularly criticized by the Opposition Progressive Liberal Party, (PLP) for not providing equal time for the promotion of its views on national interests. The PLP claimed that the radio station was unfair and unbalanced. This charge would be repeated.

Likewise, throughout its many years as the Government, charges of victimization, censorship and tight control were leveled against The Progressive Liberal Party to the extent that ZNS was referred to as "Station L.O.P." ( the initials of the Prime Minister), by its detractors, who also charged that ZNS was not just biased, but that it had become the "mouth piece" of the Pindling-led Government.

The need for reform, the freeing of the airwaves and the breaking of the monopoly of ZNS Radio, were major planks in the "1992 Election Manifesto" of The Free National Movement (FNM).

In the August 20<sup>th</sup>, 1992 edition of The Tribune, the day following the FNM's Election victory, a Reporter, quotes the newly-elected Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Hubert Ingraham as saying the following about broadcasting:

"Never again must the Bahamian people be subjected to the tyranny of a state-owned monopoly that enables a representative government to use television and radio as instruments of oppression and mis-information against the population."



Mr. Ingraham pledged the dismantling of ZNS, which he called a propaganda machine. "The station will be replaced by people-oriented range of TV and radio stations. This will be a major priority of the FNM Government.

This will be an essential step in the liberation of the people's spirit and the people's voice from the calculated suppression of thought and expression by which ZNS has been used by the outgoing regime." (The Tribune: August 20<sup>th</sup>, 1992, p.9)

### **RT. HON. HUBERT A. INGRAHAM**

When the newly elected Government met on September 8th, 1992, the first item on the Agenda of The House of Assembly was the amendment to The Broadcasting Act, which was moved by the Prime Minister and seconded by the Member of Parliament for South Beach, Mr. Michael Smith, himself a renowned broadcaster and a former News Director of ZNS.

During the debate which followed in which the previous administration was criticized for its handling of broadcasting and the managing of the Corporation, the personal integrity of persons at ZNS was questioned. The debate was fully covered and reported in the press beginning September 8<sup>th</sup>, 1992.

On September 15<sup>th</sup>, 1992, Assistant General Manager of News and Special Projects, Mr. Obie Wilchcombe, News Director, Miss Yvette Stuart, News Editor, Mrs. Sophie Ann Butler, Senior Reporter, Miss Katie Longley, Technical Supervisor, Mr. Stanley Pinder, and Newsroom Coordinator, Miss Andrea Jenoure, resigned en masse.

The reorganization of The Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas began with the appointment of the new Board of Directors. Attorney Claire Hepburn was named Chairman - the first woman to hold that position.

The General Manager, Louis Hanchell, who was appointed by the previous administration, was made redundant, and replaced by Miss Sandra Knowles, who had no previous broadcasting experience. She had the distinction of being the only female General Manager of ZNS in its long history.

As promised by The Free National Movement, the Government monopoly on broadcasting was broken, when the first private radio station was licenced and went on the air on October 12<sup>th</sup>, 1993.

This was the dawning of a new day for local broadcasting and a challenge for ZNS Radio. No longer can it rest on its accomplishments as noble as they are. The growing number of radio stations is a challenge to ZNS to exceed them all in excellent customer service and in performance, which is second to none.



# PRIVATE RADIO BROADCASTING

BY  
**EDWIN LIGHTBOURN**



It was dramatic. It was historic. It marked the shattering of the 60 year monopoly on broadcasting held by the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas. That event occurred on October 12<sup>th</sup>, 1993. That was the day that the first private radio station in The Bahamas, 100 Jamz, signed on air.

While driving to work on that memorable day, I recall wondering, "How will this event change things in The Bahamas?" I was one of thousands of Bahamians who tuned in to the first sounds of a new era in Broadcasting. Apparently pleased with what they heard, Bahamians have not looked back since.

It was something that many thought would never happen. It did not happen while the United Bahamian Party Government was in power; neither did it happen during the twenty-five (25) years of the Progressive Liberal Party's Government. It was not until the Free National Movement Government, headed by Prime Minister, Hubert Ingraham, came to office, that freedom of the airways became a reality for Bahamians.

Having first served as Assistant General Manager responsible for the Northern Service in Grand Bahama and as General Manager of the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas over an eleven (11) year period beginning in 1993, I was pleased to be able to oversee the following:

- The Modernization of broadcast facilities in Grand Bahama;
- The Digitalization of the Northern Service Radio station, 810 AM ;
- The Inauguration of Satellite Television services to the Family Islands;
- The Introduction of Live Satellite Television Weather Reports with the assistance of the Department of Meteorology

I also witnessed, first hand, the changes and challenges that the advent of private radio broadcasting brought to the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas.

Private broadcasting had an immediate impact on the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas. For the first time, the Corporation's radio stations faced competition from the private sector not only for advertising dollars but also for listeners.

As advertising dollars were shared between public and private stations, the Corporation's Sales from Radio advertisements were eroded. Eventually, the Broadcasting Corporation was successful in regaining some of its lost advertising share by utilizing new marketing and sales strategies. The new private FM Radio stations offered programming choices and Bahamians were ready and willing to support bold, new, aggressive programmes, inclusive of topical and provocative Talk Shows.

Over the past twelve (12) years, private radio broadcasting stations have mushroomed to twelve (12). Five of these stations are located in New Providence – 100 Jamz, Love 97.5 FM, More 94.5 FM, Island 102.9 FM and Joy 101.9 FM. Additionally, two stations are located in Grand Bahama – Cool 96 FM, and Intercity Broadcasting Group, 102.1 FM. There is one station in Abaco- Radio Abaco, 93.5 FM. There is also one station in Eleuthera – Splash 89.9 FM. The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Nassau has also been granted a licence to operate a radio station in New Providence. However, this station has not yet become operational. This year, two additional licences were granted, one to Bartlett-McWeeney Communications Limited, and the other to Exuma Broadcast Company Limited. Currently, there are more than 50 applications for new radio stations and several submissions for television stations.

The system is not perfect. For example, the licencing of private radio stations remains under the direct control of a Government Minister. The granting of broadcasting licences is a function of the Government. However, most developed and developing countries including the United States of America, Jamaica and Barbados, have established authorities or commissions that are fully staffed and budgeted to consider all applications for broadcasting licences under policies provided by the state for the improvement of the entire society. The granting of private radio broadcasting licences, where such commissions are in place, is therefore not viewed by the public as a political decision. The guidelines for granting broadcasting licences must be clear and the process must be transparent, so that it does not lend itself to questions of impartiality

For many years, a Television Regulatory Authority to regulate television and cable television has existed in The Bahamas. However, this body has never been given a budget or the necessary technical and administrative personnel to properly function. The new Board members hope to change this status shortly.

In 2003, the Minister with responsibility for Broadcasting, the Honourable Obie Wilchcombe, invited me to assist with the preliminary work necessary for the establishment of a Commission to regulate Broadcasting. With more than 30 years experience in the print and broadcast media, this was a significant opportunity and challenge for me. My experiences as a Reporter with the Nassau Guardian newspaper in New Providence and as Editor of the Freeport News newspaper in Freeport, Grand Bahama, aided me in this venture.

The broadcasting environment in The Bahamas requires regulations to promote Bahamian music, culture and heritage and to ensure that Bahamians have access to a wide variety of high-quality and reasonably- priced programmes. The same conditions apply to competitive, high-quality, varied and innovative communications services.

With the assistance of two persons in the Ministry of Tourism, Under Secretary, Ms. Diana Lightbourne and Legal Counsel, Mrs. Alva Stewart-Coakley, a proposal was submitted to Minister Wilchcombe. It called for the establishment of a regulatory regime with the expertise and vision to understand the converging communications landscape and with powers to set guidelines and promote competition in broadcasting. It was envisioned that the Broadcasting Commission would be an independent statutory body, based on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in the United States and the Canadian Radio/Television and Telecommunications and Regulatory Commission (CRTC). Further, the proposal called for the Broadcasting Commission to do the following:

- . Develop a regulatory framework for the issuance of new radio, television and cable licences and have the authority to issue broadcasting licences in accordance with stated and published set of criteria with the Public Utilities Commission assigning and monitoring broadcast frequencies in accordance with its current mandate.
- . Establish a transparent licencing process beginning with a public call for applications in communities where broadcasting licences are to be granted.
- . Monitor licencees for compliance with terms and conditions of licence.



### **Broadcasters receive licence renewals**

Minister of Tourism the Hon. Obie Wilchcombe with broadcasting stake holders during the renewing of commercial broadcast licences on February 21, 2005. In the front row, from left, are Mr. Silbert Mills of Radio Abaco, Ms. Andrea Gottlieb of Cool 96 FM (Grand Bahama), Mrs. Clover White and Mr. P. Anthony White of Bahamas Free Press (Joy 101.9 FM), Minister Wilchcombe, Mrs. Eileen Carron of Tribune Radio Limited (100 Jamz FM), Mr. Wendall Jones of Jones Communications (LOVE 97 FM) and Mr. Edwin Lightbourn of the Ministry of Tourism. In second row, from left, are Monsignor Alfred Culmer of the Roman Catholic Church (Archdiocese of Nassau), Ms. Brenda Albury of Splash 89.9 FM (Eleuthera), Mr. Eddie Carter of Carter Broadcasting (102.9 Island FM), Mr. Stephen Haughey of Tribune Radio Limited (100 Jamz FM), Undersecretary at the Ministry of Tourism Ms. Diana Lightbourne and Executive Assistant to the Minister Mrs. Robynn Bowe-Robert. In last row, from left, are Mr. Leonard Adderley of the Public Utilities Commission, Mr. Don Martin of Mix 102.1 FM (Grand Bahama) and Assistant Manager at the Ministry of Tourism Ms. Frederica Lightbourn. (BIS photo: Eric Rose)

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The Bahamas better than ZNS**



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1240 AM  
1540 AM  
104.5 FM  
ZNS TV-13**

[www.znsbahamas.com](http://www.znsbahamas.com)

# CONCLUSION

# HERITAGE

The Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas with its fine network of modern radio stations, ZNS-1, ZNS-2 and 104.5 FM in Nassau, and Radio Bahamas Northern Service, ZNS-3 in Freeport, Grand Bahama, in addition to ZNS TV-13, must continue to be the authentic "VOICE OF THE BAHAMAS."

The pioneers who planned and established a broadcasting facility in the early 1930's had a clear vision for its orderly development. They considered it as an important tool in uniting the Bahamian people. ZNS Radio would soon become the medium of choice to educate and inform Bahamians within their local communities.

From its infancy, the Government of The Bahamas, deemed ZNS Radio as an essential service and deliberately went about installing battery-operated radio receivers. In every isolated settlement in islands throughout this widely scattered archipelago, wherever a radio set was installed, the School Room, Church Hall or Community Centre, that place would become the focal point for the dissemination of News and lively discussion.

Seventy (70) years later, the Government of The Bahamas is equally committed to providing radio and television programmes produced by the staff of the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas to every resident in the country. Today, the Vision and Mission are more clearly defined. Since the Corporation is on the cutting edge of modern technology, the Objectives can be more readily achieved and maintained.

True to its purpose:

"The Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas exists to provide and maintain broadcasting facilities at acceptable international standards, so as to safeguard, enrich and strengthen the cultural, social and economic fabric of The Bahamas, and to assist in all aspects of national development. (ZNS STAFF BOOKLET).

ZNS – "The Voice of The Bahamas: is the people's radio station. It is a vital part of our common HERITAGE and it must always be at the centre of national life and at all times must be authentically Bahamian, believable and trustworthy."

The on-going development and enrichment of the Bahamian people must be its primary objective.

The Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas has to its credit seven decades of exemplary service to the nation because it is underpinned by excellent core values which are also clearly defined and found in The Staff Regulations and General Information 1992 booklet. These guiding principles have stood the test of time and since they too are the Corporation's Heritage, they are highlighted here:

# PRINCIPLES OF The Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas

BY  
MRS. ROSE BRADSHAW

An organization, like an individual, must build on a bedrock of sound beliefs if it is to survive and succeed. It must stand by these beliefs in conducting its business. Every manager must live by these beliefs in making decisions and in taking actions.

The beliefs that guide BCB activities are expressed as BCB principles.

## **RESPECT FOR THE INDIVIDUAL**

Our basic belief is respect for the individual, for each person's rights and dignity. It follows from this principle that BCB should:

Help employees develop their potential and make the best use of their abilities.

Pay and promote on merit.

Maintain two-way communications between manager and employee, with opportunity for a fair hearing and equitable settlement of disagreements.

We want BCB to be known for its excellence. Therefore, we believe that every task, in every part of the business, should be performed in a superior manner and to the best of our ability. Nothing should be left to chance in our pursuit of excellence. For example, we must:

Lead in new developments.

Be aware of advances made by others, better them where we can, or be willing to adopt them whenever they fit our needs.

Ensure that our product is of the best quality possible.

## **SERVICE TO THE CUSTOMER**

We are dedicated to giving our customers the best possible service. Our products and services bring profits only to the degree that they serve the customer and satisfy customer needs. This demands that we:

Know our customer's needs, and help them anticipate future needs.

Help customers use our facilities and services in the best possible way.

Provide superior and supporting services.

## **MANAGERS MUST LEAD EFFECTIVELY**

Our success depends on intelligent and aggressive management which is sensitive to the need for making an enthusiastic partner of every individual in the organization. This requires that managers:

Provide the kinds of leadership that will motivate employees to do their jobs in a superior way.

Meet frequently with all their people.

Have the courage to question decisions and policies; have the vision to see the needs of the Corporation as well as the operating unit and department.

Plan for the future by keeping an open mind to new ideas, whatever the source.

## **OBLIGATIONS TO SHAREHOLDERS (OWNERS)**

BCB has obligations to its Shareholders whose capital has created our jobs. These require us to:

- Take care of the property our shareholders have entrusted to us.
- Provide an attractive return on invested capital.  
Exploit opportunities for continuing profitable growth.

## **FAIR DEAL FOR THE SUPPLIER**

We want to deal fairly and impartially with suppliers of goods and services. We should: Select suppliers according to the quality of their products or services, their general reliability and competitiveness of price.

Recognize the legitimate interest of both supplier and BCB when negotiating a contract; administer such contracts in good faith.

Avoid suppliers becoming unduly dependent on BCB.

## **BCB SHOULD BE A GOOD CORPORATE CITIZEN**

We accept our responsibilities as a corporate citizen in community, national and world affairs; we serve our interests best when we serve the public interest. We believe that the immediate and long-term public interest is best served by a system of competing enterprises. Therefore, we believe we should compete vigorously, but in a spirit of fair play, with respect for our competitors, and with respect for the law. We acknowledge our obligation as a business institution to help improve the quality of the society we are a part of. In the conduct of all our business activities, BCB takes positive actions to ensure equal opportunity to all, without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age or sex. We want to be in the forefront of those companies which are working to make our world a better place.

Pride in the work performed is the hallmark of a successful organization. The character of the Corporation is collectively in the hands of its management and staff who have INHERITED its reputation and standing, and it is for them to advance them.

... **“A goodly HERITAGE” indeed.**



# MILESTONES IN BROADCASTING AT A GLANCE

- 1892: The Bahamas Cable and Telegraphy Act," passed by the Legislature
- The Bahamas Government established oversees Communication links with the introduction of the first submarine cable system
- The Telegraph Department established its location "Vendue House," Bay Street
- 1906: "The Telephone Act" passed
- 1912: "The Bahamas Telegraph Department Act" passed
- 1913: Introduction of the Wireless Telegraph System
- 1930: Special licence granted to Mr. Harold Chipman for Mr. C. Raven-Hill Smith to broadcast VIBAX on an experimental basis, making it The Bahamas' first broadcasting station
- Telegraph Department office moved to Bay & Parliament Streets (Secretariat Building)
- 1931: Mr. David Salter, Secretary of Telegraphs, began experimental broadcasting on the Government broadcasting apparatus, assisted by Mr. Lionel J. Hughes
- Telegraph Division moved from Vendue House, ground floor of Secretariat Building
- 1932: Introduction of first radio telephone allowing voice communication with the outside world
- 1933-1935: Experimental broadcasting continued as an accessory of the Telegraph Department, with Mr. D. Salter and Mr. J. Hughes
- 1936: May 26<sup>th</sup> : Formal broadcasting began
- November: Governor's request for funding to erect a radio station
- 1937: Government signed formal Lease Agreement with Mr. H. Blake Key for use of Snappy Hat Shop building Building re-designed and broadcasting equipment installed

- 1937: April 16<sup>th</sup> : First meeting of newly announced Advisory Committee (Board)
- 1937: May 7<sup>th</sup> : Government announced plans for Coronation of King George VI  
Plans included formal opening of newly renovated radio station; and  
broadcast of Coronation ceremony and King's address from the BBC
- 1937: May 11<sup>th</sup> : Formal opening of Studio Building on eve of the Coronation  
Inaugural address by the Administrator, Mr. J.A. Jarrett
- 1937: June: Call letters "ZNS" - Zephyr Nassau Sunshine adopted
- 1938: Lease Agreement for studio building terminated
- 1938: June 28<sup>th</sup> : ZNS Studios relocated to newly constructed Telegraph  
Department Building on East Street North  
  
H.R. "Rusty" Bethel joined Telegraph Department as Accounts Clerk
- 1939: January 26<sup>th</sup> : ZNS' new studio on East Street is officially opened by  
the Governor
- 1940: By an Act of the Legislature, The Bahamas Telegraph Department is  
re-classified as The Bahamas Telecommunications Department
- 1943: Transmitter moved from Fort Charlotte to Perpall Tract
- 1944: K.P. Brown resigns and is succeeded by H.R. "Rusty" Bethel  
  
Distance education programmes introduced to Out Islands
- 1945: January 21<sup>st</sup> : First Out Island remote broadcast, Harbour Island to Nassau
- 1946: June: ZNS' frequency changed to 1540 KHZ
- 1947: H.R. Bethel training in Toronto, Canada and Bermuda, in preparation for  
commercial broadcasting
- 1948: K.R. Ingraham appointed first Bahamian Director of Telecommunications
- 1949: March: Board of Education began broadcasting locally-produced  
educational programmes
- 1950: August 1<sup>st</sup> : Commercial broadcasting begins  
  
ZNS retains 1-A clear channel status and 1540 KHZ frequency at  
Washington Conference
- 1951: H. R. Bethel is confirmed as General Manager (first Bahamian)  
  
Telecommunications Board recommends that the Radio receiver licence fee  
be abolished

- 
- 1953: Telegraph Department acquires former Crown Land's building on East Street  
The building nearby becomes the new location of ZNS
- 1956: May 17<sup>th</sup> : ZNS separates from the Telecommunications Department by an Act of Parliament
- May 17<sup>th</sup> : The Bahamas Radio & Television Commission is established by an Act of Parliament
- 1959: August 15<sup>th</sup> : ZNS moves from East Street North to 3<sup>rd</sup> Terrace East, Centreville
- August 30<sup>th</sup> : New ZNS studios officially opened
- Transmitting station moved to Blue Hill Road near South Beach
- 1962: August 15<sup>th</sup> : ZNS-2 established
- 1964 -1965: Training for Radio Sales and News staff at ZBM, Bermuda (Louis Hanchell, Calsey Johnson, Ed Bethel)
- 1969: Staff training for television in Oklahoma, U.S.A.
- 1970: Executive offices moved to Second Terrace, Centreville
- April 30<sup>th</sup> : H.R. "Rusty" Bethel resigns
- 1971: May 26<sup>th</sup> : Thirty-fifth (35<sup>th</sup> ) Anniversary observed and Newspaper supplements issued
- 1973: May: ZNS-3 - Radio Bahamas Northern Service begins its operation in Freeport
- 1975: April 19<sup>th</sup> : Renovation and extension to Third Terrace Studio building completed
- Executive Offices return to Third Terrace location
- Negotiation begins for Television
- 1976: November 1<sup>st</sup> : Staff training for Television begins at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, Canada
- 1977: July 4<sup>th</sup> : Television test transmissions begin
- July 10<sup>th</sup> : Television programmes start officially on Channel-13
- October 20<sup>th</sup> : Queen Elizabeth II declares Television station officially open

Radio transmitting towers relocated from Perpall Tract to Blue Hill Road near South Beach, doubling its power from 10,000 to 20,000 Watts

- 1978-1979: Struggle for unionization - First Industrial action
- 1979: ZNS-3 installs new tower and increases power
- 1980: November: Signing of first Industrial Relations Contract
- 1981: February: Six-day Industrial action
- 1983: January: Installation of satellite dish to receive and send television programmes
- 1986: May 26<sup>th</sup> : Fiftieth (50<sup>th</sup>) Anniversary observed with special events, programmes and newspaper supplements
- 1988: July 10<sup>th</sup> : ZNS-FM established
- ZNS-2 changes format to all Religious programmes and News
- 1990: November 5<sup>th</sup> : Television service to Freeport commences via CATV cable system
- 1993: January 8<sup>th</sup> : Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham announces breaking of ZNS' broadcasting monopoly; and also the appointment of Ms. Sandra Knowles as first female and first non-broadcaster to head the Corporation
- October 11<sup>th</sup> : Private broadcasting begins
- 1996: May 26<sup>th</sup> : Sixtieth (60<sup>th</sup>) Anniversary, observed with special "post-mark" and newspaper supplement
- 2000: The facilities of the Northern Service ZNS-3 and TV-13 relocated from the Kipling building to the Government complex, in Freeport, Grand Bahama
- 2005: April 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> : First live television remote from Family Island - Exuma to Nassau (during Family Island Regatta)

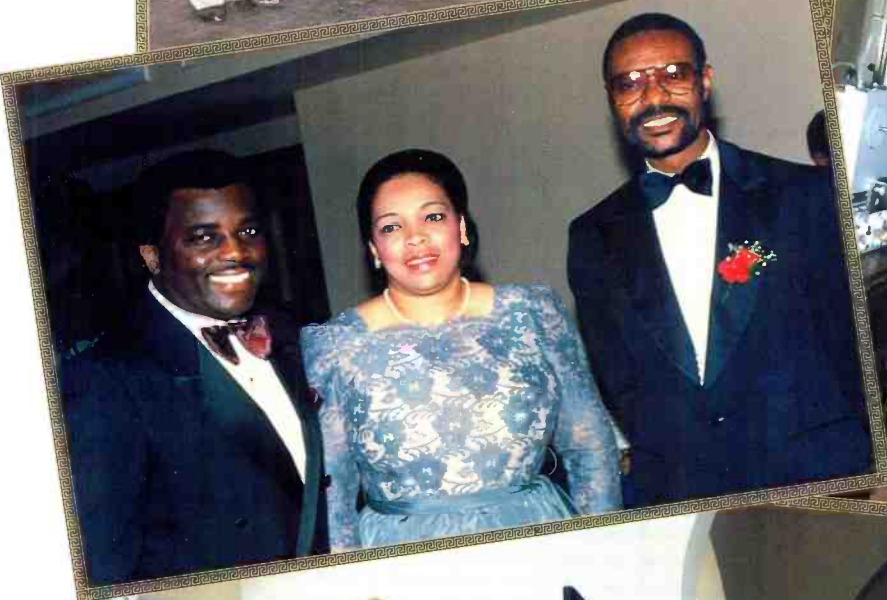


*PHOTO Courtesy: ZNS Archives*



**Radio Bahamas**





## POSTAGE STAMPS COMMEMORATING SEVEN DECADES OF BROADCASTING

Issued date: May 26, 2006.

1. The 15 cent stamp honours Mr. Harcourt Rodney "Rusty" Bethel, who is widely regarded as "The Father of Broadcasting" in The Bahamas.

"Rusty" Bethel was born 29<sup>th</sup> May, 1913 at Cherokee Sound, Abaco, and educated at schools in Florida and New Providence.

He studied Radio Telegraphy. This qualified him for a position as a Wireless Operator on ships sailing between Nassau and Florida. Later, he joined the Telegraph Department and in 1943, he was promoted to Secretary of Out Island Broadcasting. In this capacity, he traveled to most of the Islands, installing and maintaining community radio systems around which people in remote settlements would gather to hear the News, receive personal messages and be entertained.

He became Secretary and Chief Announcer in 1945. The title was later changed to General Manager and Mr. H. R. Bethel served with distinction up to his retirement on April 30, 1970.

2. The 25 cent stamp features the new corporate logo.

On July 13, 2005, Mr. Anthony Foster, General Manager of the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas announced that: "The Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas is changing its logo from the colours red, white and blue, to the national colours of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas, black, gold and aquamarine, a reflection of our national pride and patriotism."

By making this change, the Corporation hopes to foster a greater sense of national pride in the people of The Bahamas whom it is mandated to inform, educate and entertain.

The logo was designed by Deputy Director - Graphics, Derek Bain, a Corporation employee, and depicts the aquamarine waters of The Bahamas with a microphone covering the entire archipelago, representing the Corporation's ability to project its audio and visual presentations throughout The Bahamas. Stretching across the archipelago in bright gold letters is the station's

call letters "ZNS", which means "Zephyr Nassau Sunshine."

Inscribed across the base of the microphone are the words "Network Bahamas" which signal the inclusion of all radio and television stations under the umbrella of the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas."

3. The building depicted on the 50 cent stamp is the National Headquarters of the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas, and it has the distinction of being officially opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the 20<sup>th</sup> October, 1977.



The Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas

The Administrative offices, the News Department and the complete Television Department are all under its roof.

The commemorative plaque affixed to the front of the building reads in part:

"In commemoration of the Opening of this Television station by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, 20<sup>th</sup> October, 1977."

Television test transmission began on July 4<sup>th</sup> and the official transmission started July 10<sup>th</sup>, 1977, the fourth anniversary of Independence.

It is important to note other Royal connections with ZNS. The official opening of the first Radio station was on the eve of the Coronation of The Queen's parents, May 11, 1937; and her uncle, His Royal Highness, The Duke of Windsor used the facilities of ZNS frequently to speak to The Bahamian people during his tenure as Governor, 1940 - 1945.

4. The 65 cent stamp shows the first Radio station building to be erected at the Third Terrace, East, Centreville location in 1959.

The studio was designed to resemble a dwelling house in keeping with the Centreville residential area and was mistaken for a dwelling house on several occasions.

Centreville has since been reclassified as a business district and has undergone tremendous changes in the buildings in this very commercial hub.

Likewise, the building depicted, which houses ZNS' Nassau Radio stations has been re-designed and expanded since its opening in 1959.

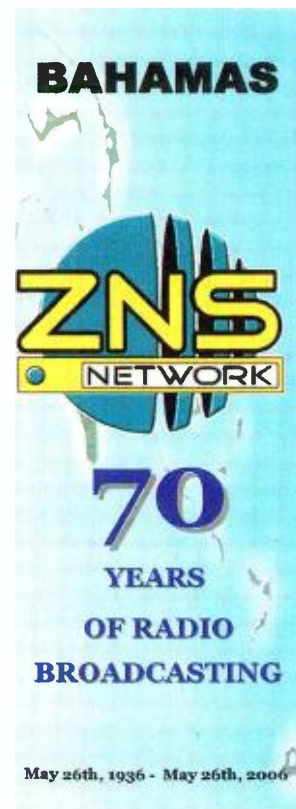
5. The 70 cent stamp shows a map of The Bahamas, the islands which the Broadcasting Corporation is mandated to provide with radio and television services.

Broadcasting by Radio ZNS is an essential service and communicating with the people, especially in the remote Family Islands, has always been of primary importance. "ZNS News" and "The Community Page" are important links in keeping the people of The Bahamas well-informed and play an important role in the on-going development of the nation.

"Only the Sun covers The Bahamas better than Radio Bahamas" is more than a slogan. It is a fact.

6. The 80 cent stamp celebrates the seven decades of radio broadcasting by station ZNS Radio Network. With studios in Nassau, New Providence and Freeport, Grand Bahama, full radio coverage is now available throughout The Bahamas, South Florida, The Turks & Caicos Islands and the Northern Islands of The Caribbean.

The radio Network comprises, ZNS-1, ZNS-2, ZNS-FM, and ZNS-3, the Northern Service, in Freeport, Grand Bahama.



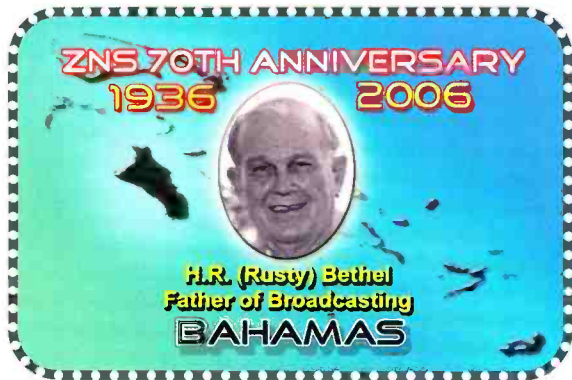


Design of Stamps

BY

Derek V. Bain

Release Date: May 26th, 2006



#1...15Cents



#4...65Cents



#2...25Cents



#5...70Cents



#3...50Cents



#6...80Cents

## THE BROADCASTING CORPORATION OF THE BAHAMAS RECORDS ITS THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO THE FOLLOWING PERSONS:

The volunteers who assisted in pioneering the infant radio station, including the men of the British Armed Forces based in Nassau during World War II

Mr. Bert Cambridge, a member of the House of Assembly and talented Bahamian musician who contributed greatly through a weekly variety show

Mr. Percival Hanna – celebrated organist

The Reverend Earle Weech and his wife, Violet, original Gospel Singers, who broadcast weekly

The Reverend J.J. Stubbs, who along with the Reverend Dr. George Barry, coordinated and hosted Radio Gospel singing groups

Veteran Broadcaster, Miss Mary Kelly of “Mary’s Notebook”

Mrs. Sylvia Cole-Tierney  
Mrs. Pearl Cox and  
Mrs. Phyllis Harris who hosted special interest programmes

Miss Jeannie Thompson (Her Ladyship, Miss Justice Thompson) playwright, who wrote and produced our first Bahamian soap opera, “The Fergusons of Farm Road”

The Learning Resources Unit of the Ministry of Education for weekly educational and school programmes

The Ministry of Health

Family Island stringers

Community leaders who represented ZNS as Sales agents and News-gatherers (tipsters)

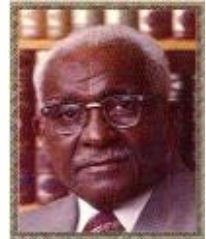
Members of the Bahamas Musicians and Entertainers Union

The Members and Management of The Dundas Centre for the Performing Arts

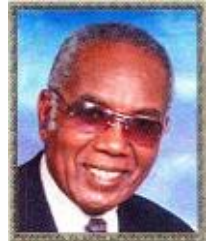
The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture

James Catalyn and Friends

The Kitchen Crew:  
“Sister Sarah” – Miss Patricia Thomas  
“Glamour Boy” – Mr. Val Maura  
“Tita” – Miss Claudette Allen



Mr. Percival Hanna



Rev. Dr. George Barry



Rev. J.J. Stubbs



Miss Mary Kelly



Mrs. Phyllis Harris



Mrs. Pearl Cox

There are hundreds of other persons who have contributed to the growth and development of our network of stations by giving of their time and sharing their talents to enhance our programming.

Finally, thanks to our valued sponsors, whose financial support made what seemed impossible a reality.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**"HERITAGE – 70 Years Of Radio Broadcasting"** is a publication of the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas, the owner of the copyright, except where already indicated and acknowledged.

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# **"HERITAGE"**

**70 Years of Radio Broadcasting"**

**Published by  
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of The Bahamas**

**May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006**



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# 70TH ANNIVERSARY 1936 - 2006



***The Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas***

