Wiley, Ken

This disaster, like so many before it, was attributed to the fact that there was no proper lighthouse on the north end of Grand Turk. However, none of the other ships that were lost had included in their cargo the Governor of Jamaica. Resulting in large part from the hue and cry surrounding the wreck of the *Medina*, the legislature of the Turks Islands secured £2000 from England and raised another £2000 from the issuance of local bonds "for the purposes of erecting a lighthouse on Grand Turk."

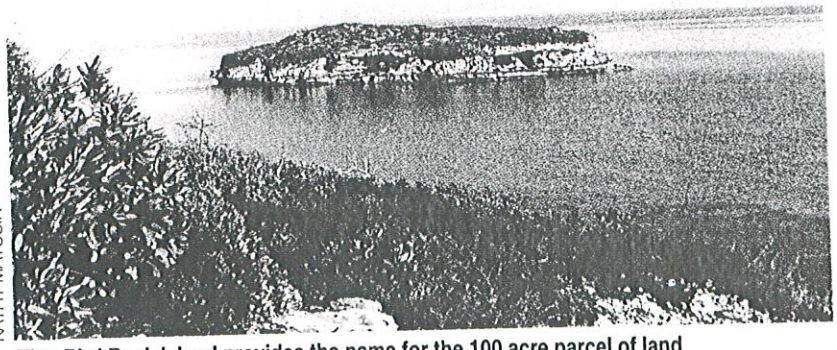
Imported from England, the Grand Turk Lighthouse was constructed of cast iron, shipped in sections and assembled on-site in 1852. It was a step in the right direction. But while its construction provided a sufficient perception of security to save the salt industry, it was a step that proved immediately to have been too small. Lit by eight small oil burners, the light it produced was so dim that, for the next 40 years, shipwrecks continued to occur, many within a mile of the lighthouse itself.

In 1894, Nassau's Trinity Imperial Lighthouse Service was contracted to take over its operation and maintenance. The oil burners were replaced by five pressurised kerosene lamps. A large Fresnel lens was installed; the lens floated and rotated on a pan of mercury, turned by a clockwork mechanism of chains and weights. It was a complicated system that needed constant tending by a full-time resident lighthouse keeper.

This system stayed in place until well into the second half of the twentieth century. In 1972, the fuel lamps were replaced by the bright electric light and silvered reflector still in use today, making the light visible from a distance of 20 miles. The modern system, powered by electricity, was installed just four years following the appointment of Sir Francis Cumming-Bruce as Governor of the Bahamas and the Turks Islands. Fittingly, Sir Francis' grandmother was the baby daughter born to Lady Charlotte Bruce shortly after Lady Bruce's spectacular midnight arrival in the West Indies, when the *R.M.S. Medina* went aground on Grand Turk's Northeast Reef.

CONNECTIONS . . .

Work to restore and maintain the Lighthouse, the Boiling Hole on South Caicos, a group of projects on Salt Cay and the old "Island Cemetery" in the middle of the Town Salina on Grand Turk are projects the Trust will pursue as part of its ***Islands in Time*** campaign. These legacies of the salt industry represent



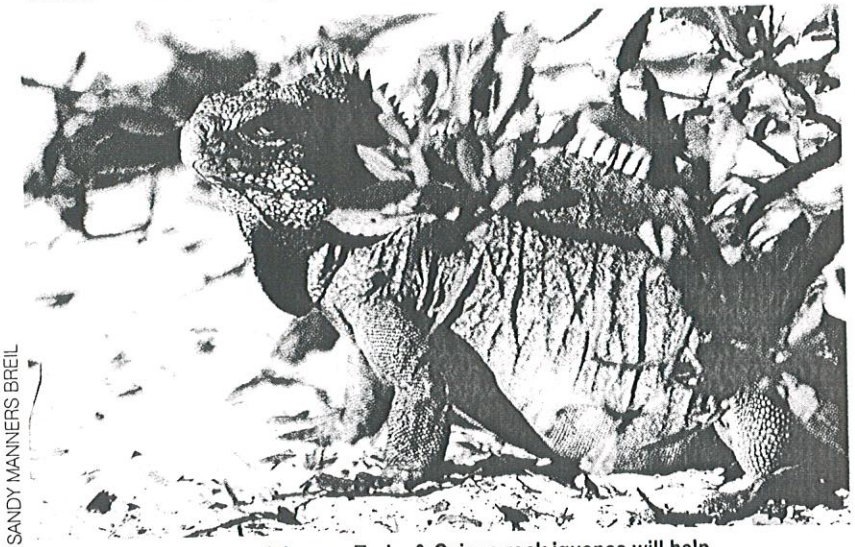
KATHY MATUSIK

Tiny Bird Rock Island provides the name for the 100 acre parcel of land on Provo's northeast point that will be developed as a nature preserve.

BIRD ROCK POINT NATURAL AREA: Hiking and Natural Area Accessway Development

Development of the 100 acre Bird Rock Point Natural Area on Providenciales' northeast tip will provide for maintained trail access to a variety of habitats representative of the Islands — from sandy beach and ironshore to mangrove tidal creeks and virgin scrub.

Completion of accessway development to the Bird Rock Point Natural Area will require construction of a trail system and a small parking area; the design, production and installation of interpretive signs; and the printing and distribution of an informative brochure.



SANDY MANNERS BREIL

A country-wide survey of the rare Turks & Caicos rock iguanas will help in preparation of a management plan for their preservation.

TURKS & CAICOS ROCK IGUANA: Species Health and Population Status Survey

The rock iguana (*Cyclura carinata carinata*) is the largest and most spectacular native land animal found in the Turks & Caicos Islands. It is also unique to these Islands, occurring nowhere else. Along with our coral reefs, the rock iguana has become a living symbol of the Islands' efforts to develop a sustainable tourist economy based on natural assets.

Despite the animal's seeming abundance in specific areas, this species is considered to be rare and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) has recommended that is be declared "endangered."

Through the ***Islands in Time*** campaign, the National Trust will do a basic country-wide survey of the species in order to determine:

- Where populations exist and the relative size of these populations;
- Where existing populations may be in trouble and to seek recommendations for managing specific problems; and,
- A set of general management recommendations for the enhancement and preservation of existing iguana populations throughout the country.