

Jack Tar Grand Bahama is a winter winner Travel views

by CAROL MERKLEY

There is a good reason why the Canadian flag flies from a place of honour above the main building at the Jack Tar Village. Pale skinned winter tourists from the Great White North are the largest single group of visitors at the property.

The Jack Tar property stands isolated in a 2,000 acre compound on the west end of Grand Bahama. Superior rooms are larger, have better furniture, contain two double beds, and offer a better location. An ocean view room can be requested but not guaranteed.

The property has relatively few standard rooms, which are smaller and contain either one double bed or two single beds. The hotel is an older hotel and is not classified as deluxe. Many people class the hotel as a cruise ship on land. The Jack Tar Village has been all inclusive for the past two years and has been very successful.

Not every room has a television. The management hopes to have a black and white TV in every room by the end of this month. A variety of different accommodation blocks exist at the Jack Tar Village. The Colonial Wing, a group of small cottages nicely positioned along the beach, has recently been refurbished and can be requested, but again there is no guarantee.

A large pool serves as the centre of activity at the village, offering afternoon calypso music on a daily basis, but activities are varied. Six rubico tennis courts are backed up by 10 cushion overflow courts for tennis buffs. Three nine hole Professional Golf Association courses will keep duffers busy. Green fees are included, but golf carts are mandatory at a cost of US\$18 for 18 holes and US\$10 for nine holes.

One of the most engaging activities at the village is touring the grounds by bicycles

which can be used at no charge. Snorkellers can sign out the necessary equipment at the watersports hut and use a bicycle to reach the South Beach.

The South Beach Gardens, located 100 yards offshore, is the best location for skin diving. Abundant tropical fish, brain coral and underwater flora will be seen. The South Beach is also the spot for visitors who prefer to be alone. During the course of a recent visit to the property, there were rarely more than four or five people on this beach, despite the fact that the hotel had about 500 guests. Certified scuba divers can purchase a package for US\$25 which includes a one tank dive to 80 feet for crevasses and 30 feet for fish. A guide and boat take divers to a nearby island and the excursion is finished with an hour of snorkelling.

Visitors who wish to leave the village for a time can take nightclub, shopping or gam-

bling excursions to Freeport for US\$12. Other excursions include deepsea fishing (US\$40 per person, minimum two people and maximum four) and tours to West End (US\$2), the oldest village on Grand Bahama. The adventurous can also rent a scooter for US\$20 and explore the island.

Free activities at the village include sailing, dredge fishing, windsurfing, paddleboats, horseback riding, shuffleboard, and group tennis clinics. Free nightly entertainment in the Prince Charles Room is the usual good natured island singing and dancing.

Limbo and other acts vary the pace. The crowd usually heads to either the disco or the Village Lounge for jazz and easy listening music after the show. Adventure Tours expects to send 7,500 passengers to the Jack Tar Village this winter season. This package is very popular and is excellent value.

The Cotton Club

For \$20 million this movie contains too much violence and not enough song and dance

by TERRY DUPUIS

There was a famous nightclub in Harlem, New York which flourished back in the 1920's. That was the era of Prohibition, jazz and gangsters. And all three of these were important components in the life of the Cotton Club. Such illustrious black performers as Cab Calloway, Duke Ellington and Lena Horne performed on stage there. In fact, the majority of the Cotton Club's performers were black, but the audience they played to was exclusively whites.

Ironically, the black entertainers who were so welcome as performers would have been refused entrance as guests. As for the guests who frequented the Cotton Club for dining, drinking and dancing, they were largely from two categories: sophisticated socialites and hardened criminals, gangsters like Dutch Schultz.

Schultz figures prominently as a character in the screenplay of director Francis Coppola's latest movie, *The Cotton Club*. It is not so much a historical view of the legendary nightclub as it is a work of fiction in which the club forms an important backdrop to the stories of a number of characters, some of whom are historical characters and others which are fictitious.

The Cotton Club itself is almost a character in the story, so important is it to the action in the plot.

There are two main plot lines at work in *The Cotton Club*. The first has to do with a white cornet player named Dixie Dwyer, who is played by Richard Gere. One night in the club Dixie is invited to sit at a table with some of the club's guests.

He saves one of these men from an assassination attempt, and then he is astounded to find out that the man whose life he has saved is none other than the notorious gangland boss Dutch Schultz. By way of gratitude Schultz puts the young musician on his payroll. Unfortunately, one of Dixie's

new duties is to look after the gangster's girlfriend Vera, who is a singer at the club. This turns out to be an error in judgement on the gangster's part.

The second plotline in *The Cotton Club* concerns a young black tap dancer who like Dixie Dwyer also feels that he can make the big time career-wise when he is hired to entertain at the Cotton Club. This young man whose name is Sandman Williams is portrayed by actor Gregory Hines. His story also involves gangsters, but more indirectly.

And he has to contend with racial prejudice as well as a bittersweet romance with a young singer at the club named Rose, who is so light-skinned that she can pass for a white girl.

These are some of the main characters who figure most prominently in *The Cotton Club*. Apparently there were all kinds of problems during its making and the budget skyrocketed from the original estimate of \$20 million dollars to at least twice that amount.

I know about inflation. But Coppola was able to make *The Godfather* on a budget of \$6 million dollars just over 10 years ago. Have production costs skyrocketed that much?

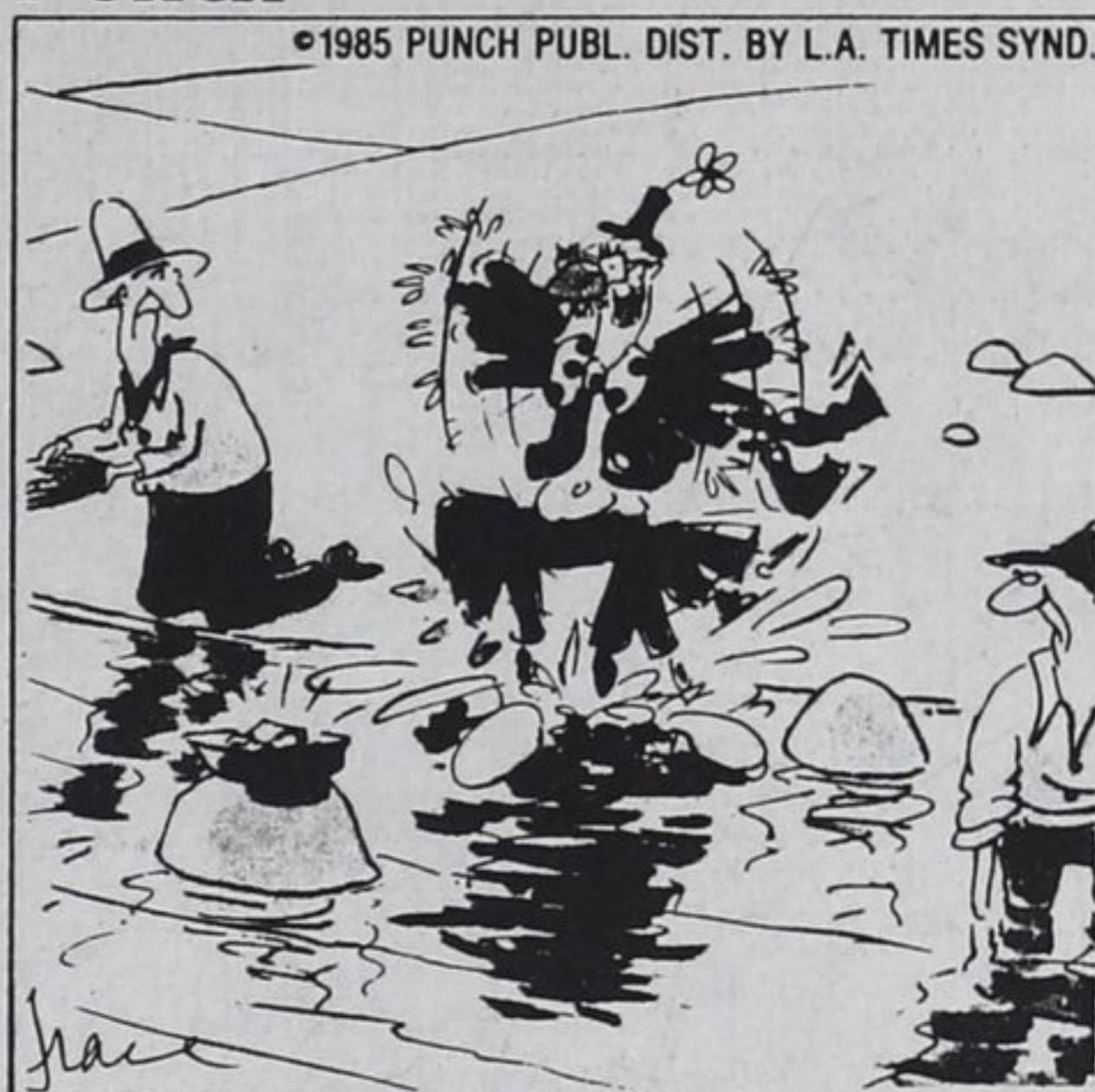
Entertainment-wise, *The Cotton Club* can boast some good musical numbers. Richard Gere, by the way, does his own cornet playing, and he is excellent.

And Gregory Hines is a talented dancer. But the story is not too coherent dramatically, probably because the movie's original running time was three hours long and Coppola made a lot of cuts.

Also, the movie contains too much violence, as though the film maker just couldn't leave *The Godfather* behind.

The movie's costumes and sets are authentic-looking but for the amount of money that was spent on this enterprise, they should be.

Punch



"Fool's gold! Fool's gold!"

This Week in Canada

On January 16, in 1869, Lester B. Pearson the first issue of the Montreal STAR was published, and in 1958, Louis St. Laurent as leader of the Liberal Party.

MOVIE GUIDE

ROXY TWIN THEATRES 526-5791
ROXY 1 Starts Friday 7 and 9:05
PARTY ANIMAL RESTRICTED

ROXY 2 Starts Friday 7 and 9:05
2010 PARENTAL GUIDANCE SUGGESTED

Sat. Matinee 1:30 - Boy Named Charlie Brown - Pick up your free movie tickets at McDonalds to see Charlie Brown free. The roxy will be giving out free McDonald French Fry coupons.

PEN TWIN PENETANG 549-2953
PEN 1 Fri-Sat. Jan. 18-19
7:15 plus 9 p.m.

FROM THE PRODUCERS OF THE SUPERMAN MOVIES...
Supergirl RUNAWAY! PARENTAL GUIDANCE SUGGESTED
Sun. Jan. 20 to Thurs. Jan. 24

Where the Boys Are ADULT ACCOMPANIMENT
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PEN 2 BEVERLY HILLS Cop RESTRICTED
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Community Calendar

Jan. 16
Euchre party in the Midland Legion, 8 p.m. Lunch and prizes. Sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary Branch 80.

Jan. 17
Midland-Penetang Field Naturalists' Club meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Wye Marsh Wildlife Interpretation Centre. Linda Lines of Beausoleil Island Park staff will show slides and discuss Parks Canada's 100th anniversary, and local and national parks programs.

Jan. 23
Midland Historical Society is being revived. Inaugural meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Midland Public Library.

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Show only **\$5.00** per person

Fri., Feb. 8
Terry Carrise'

Dinner 7-9 p.m. **\$7.50** per person
Show only **\$5.00** per person

Fri., Feb. 15
Valentine & Winterama Dance

Dance to the music of **'Silhouette'**

Dinner 7-9 p.m. **\$7.50** per person
Dance only **\$3.00** per person

Fri., March 22
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