Travel

Special day in Bahamas—Remembrance Day

Day to honor the fallen has ceremonial tradition

Priday, November 11, is Veteran's Day, It used to be called Armistice Day because the World War One armistice was signed on Nov. 11, 1918. In the Bahamas they call it Remembrance Day, Whatever you call it, it has the same theme remembering those who have died for their country in war. They was the Bahamas last year when they are they are the Bahamas last year when they are the are they are the are the are they are they are they are they are they are

THE BAND was below us, brass in-THE BAND was below us, brass Instruments (jeaming, playing a slow march while the dignitaries gathered on the lawn. The officials wore dark suits and long-sleeved dresses in spite of the hot day. From the street, we heard the sound of approaching drums as the lirst contingent of schoolgirls rounded the corner in darks suits and whitee blouses. The sound of durms got leader as the uniform hand appeared, the drummers' arms rising and folling rhythmically in the heat.

The grass on either side of the lawn



1-of-a-kind traveler Iris Jones contributing travel editor

began to clutter: boy scouts with their ties askew, girls in paddy green skirts and caps, nursing students, mothers in flowered hats, foddlers trying to stand still in their stiff Sunday shoes.

still in their stiff Sunday shoes.
A big old man in a grey suit and a black hat, his hair a curly white mopover a solemn black face, appeared on the balcony behind me. He had a lot of memories on his face as he looked down on the gathering group below.

AS WE WATCHED, a single white-uniformed soldier stood at parade rest at each of the four corners of the ceno-

at cach of the four corners of the ceno-taph.

There was complete silence, even among the children in their stiff Sun-day shoes, as a black limousine parked at the end of the walk and the Governor General arrived. Out of the silence a booming voice began the familiar words: "Grazier love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

inis, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

After the first hymn, and the reading of the first lesson, the girls in the green caps begin to collapse in untily little heaps in front of the now-silent drums, bugging their knees in their in their efforts to sit still. The small children at the edge of the crowd began to get restless.



The Garden of Remembrance in Nassau (far right) is a solemn aight as it fills with silent soldiers, sallors, school children, government workers, civilians and all manners of Bahamians who gather to honor fellow countrymen killed in conflict. The Governor General (above) lays a wreath at the cenotaph, an empty tomb that was built in honor of the fallen.

in the mauve silk dress and matching veil had placed her hymn book on the grass. The guard of honor stood with bent heads at each corner of the centaph. The old man behind me, hol as he was, never relaxed his stance or took his eyes off the wreaths being placed around the cenotaph below.

FINALLY the solder with the leopard skin over his shoulder blew the final temper. There was two minutes sitence, the shoulder blew the final temper. There was two minutes sitence, the should be sh

the colored Sunday clothes of the on-lookers.

The band rose, still playing music, and the old man's voice behind me rose in song, softly at first, and then louder: "lest we forget, ..."

After the national anthem, the crowd diminished, the dignitaries left, but the honor guard remained, still at attention around the flower-bedecked memorial to the dead.

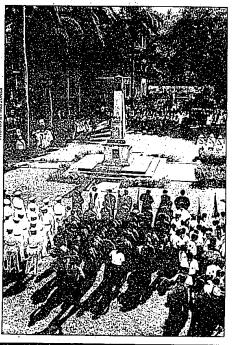
We thought it was over, but there

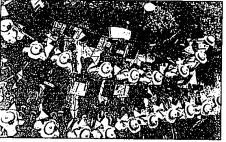
to the dead.

We thought it was over, but there was one final touch. Pipers led the crowd downhill to St. George's wharf where they threw memorial flowers into the sea, singing softly as the wreaths 1 bouquets floated gently between the Straw Market and the cruise stine.

ships.

If you are ever in the Bahamas in November, Remembrance Day ceremonies are held on the Sunday following November 11.





From the belcony, the travel writer observed the white helmots and the red-and-white striped jackets of the Royal Bahamanian Police Force as the band members played during the Remembrance Day ceremonies in the Garden of Remembrance.

Bach Festival in Cass City

The Fifth Annual Village Bach Festival will be held in Cass City on Tuesday, Nov. 22, and Friday, Saturday, Sunday Nov. 25, 26, 27. An additional concert will be held in Midland Monday, Nov. 28. This is no run-of-the-mill village festival. It is a top-quality musical event worth every mile of the drive from the Detroit area.

The festival is one of the many exciting artistic events that my friend Holly Althaver has helped to bring to this small city on the Michigan Thum, Holly was a mover and shaker for the Michigan Council for the Arts for many years, and has been moving and shaking things up in Cass City for as long as she has lived there.

The program starts at 8:15 pm. Tuesday, Nov. 22 with a Festival Recital by planist Thomas Brown. Priday begins with a pre-concert lecture at 7 p.m., followed by a Festival Concert at 8:15 p.m.

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Saturday afternoon features a harpsichord film at 3 p.m., a pre-concert lecture at 7 p.m. and a Festival Concert at 8.15 p.m. A recoloute follows.

On Sunday Nov. 27: film, 1 p.m.; pre-concert lecture, 7 p.m., Festival Concert a.15 p.m.

An additional concert will be held on Monday, Nov. 28: in Midland, with a 7 p.m. pre-concert lecture, and an 8:15 p.m. Festival Concert.

The concert sost \$8 for general admission, \$10 for reserved seats for each day of performance. You can also by a Sustaining Patron for \$150 or a Patron for \$100, which includes two reserved seats to each performance.

\$100, which increases a control of the Village Bach Festival at P.O. Box 27, Cass City, MI. 48726 or telephone 517-872-2844 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or 517-872-3050 after 6 p.m. — Iris Sanderson Jones

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