

**Carl Graham Fisher, 1874-1939.
Papers, 1896-1958.**

Papers: 16 boxes.
Newspaper clippings: 3 boxes
Photographic prints: 8 boxes

Location: Papers: R
Photographic prints: M96C
Newspaper clippings: M96B

Bequest of Jane Watts Fisher, 1968.

Summary

Automotive magnate and developer Carl Fisher led in the creation of two cities (Miami Beach, Florida, and Montauk, Long Island, New York), and played a large role in the automotive industry. His transportation projects included the Indianapolis Speedway, Lincoln Highway, and Dixie Highway. Fisher's papers contain his correspondence, newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, and photographs.

Scope and Content

The Fisher papers illustrate and document the contribution of Carl Graham Fisher's considerable energy and entrepreneurial talents to various fields of activity that have greatly influenced American life in the 20th century, namely: urban development, automotive transportation, publicity, and sports.

By and large, the collection's greatest strength is the almost day-to-day picture it draws of the building of Miami Beach from a wilderness into a world-famous resort city (1912-1926). The papers also include materials pertaining to the development of Montauk (Long Island, New York).

The collection consists mainly of correspondence, both business and personal. It includes clippings, photographs, legal documents, financial reports and statements, memoranda, telegrams, pamphlets and brochures, blueprints, patents, and miscellaneous items.

His business letters attest to the infectious optimism, foresight, daring, and honesty that enabled him to persuade, sell, and build in an ever larger scale. His personal correspondence gives a rather intimate picture of his values, moods, faults, sense of humor, and in the end, of his equanimity in the face of financial disaster, loneliness, and terminal illness.