

# Deering family

-January 30 1919

Dear Mr. Deering,

After receiving your very frank letter, I can better understand the mental attitude of the chap who said, "God save me from my servants, and I'll look after my own soul".

I am perfectly willing to consider the incident as not only entirely closed but as non-existent, if you will agree to have a cocktail chirping on the ice and ready for me whenever I turn my infuriated Ford loose in the direction of your gatehouse.

With all good wishes, I am

Yours sincerely,

CGF/mrb

Mr. James Deering,  
Villa Vizcaya,  
Miami, Florida.

January 24 1919

Mr. James Deering,  
Villa Viscaya,  
Miami, Florida.

Dear Mr. Deering,

Frankness between men is always best, and that is the spirit in which I am writing.

Not long ago, one Sunday morning, I rode over to your place with a friend to let him see your gardens. The pass you sent me had been left at my office, and your guard stopped me at the gate. I explained that the card had been forgotten. He was courteous enough, saying he knew that I was Mr. Fisher, but he had to obey his positive orders to admit no one without the pass, no matter who it was. He agreed to telephone up to you, which he did; but after keeping my guest and myself waiting half an hour the report came back that you were not at home.

I happen to know that you were at home, and resent very much the treatment I received, not that you couldn't see me if you were engaged, but that I was refused admittance to the home of a man whom I considered a friend, at any time I wished to come.

Such being the case, I cannot accept any future invitations from you. For while I may have no right to give orders to your servants, or countermand instructions you give them, I can at least save myself future annoyance by not opening myself to a re-occurrence of such a miserably unpleasant thing.

Yours very sincerely,

CGF/arb

VIZCAYA  
MIAMI  
FLORIDA

February 1, 1919.

Dear Mr. Fisher:

It gives me great pleasure to have your letter of the thirtieth, which arrives at 8:50 a.m. today, while I am to sail on a fishing cruise with my brother-in-law Howe at nine o'clock; hence the brevity and the fact that I shall have to ask my Secretary, Mr. McGinnis, to sign this for me.

When there is real good will few words are needed. I have felt always confident of your good will and regret that you should have had reason for withholding it for any period of time, however short.

Yours very sincerely,

*James Kearney*

Carl G. Fisher, Esq.,

Miami Beach.

June 24th, 1919.

Mr. James Deering,  
Miami, Florida.

My dear Mr. Deering :

I have just returned from Miami where I made a special trip to watch the operation of a palmetto plow, picture of which I enclose you.

If there is one thing in the State of Florida that is holding back the development of the farming industry more than anything else it is the growth of palmetto and other small shrubs that have very strong and tough roots that the ordinary plow will not handle.

This particular plow is a marvel, and with a 30 H.P. tractor we could plow from 12 to 15 acres per day of heavy palmettes so that four men, following the plow, could pile the roots for burning. The plow which we made is very crude, but effective. It could be easily made very much better and at a low price by a company like the International Harvester Company. Mr. A. C. Webb, formerly the builder of the Webb Fire Engine, built this plow for me - and I understand that he has it patented. I told him that I would write to your Company and try and interest you in the building of a few of these plows for Florida consumption.

I believe it would be doing a good thing for the farmers of Florida to make up some of these plows that they could purchase at a reasonable price. Ours was whittled out by hand and cost us about \$400 to build, but from what little knowledge I have of farm machinery I imagine that a company like the International Harvester Company could build them more substantially at \$150 apiece.

I am now building a second plow, as we will have about a thousand acres of land north of the canal to put in grasses and small trees this Fall.

I called you on the phone last Monday, but couldn't get you.

Sincerely yours,

OGF:R

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SEVEN  
SOUTH LA SALLE STREET

Chicago, July 7, 1919.

Dear Mr. Fisher:--

Replying to your letter of the 24th of June and supplementing my previous letter acknowledging it, I would say I am sorry that I did not see you in Miami. I think you and I were there a few days at the same time, but I knew that you must be very busy and did not, therefore, try to find you.

For some time my office has not been with the International Harvester Company as my duties with the company as vice president have been nominal. I have now resigned that position. It is my intention to go to the office at the earliest date possible, at which time I will confer with the proper man or men regarding your plow. As you well know, large manufacturers are interested only in those things which can be sold in large numbers. I fear this would not be the case with a plow such as you speak of. In this case some smaller manufacturer ought to be glad to take up the question, though this would perhaps involve a higher cost.

With kindest regards,

Yours very sincerely,

Carl G. Fisher, Esq.,  
Indianapolis, Ind.

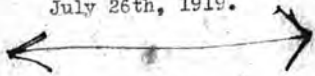
*Wm. L. ...*



C O P Y .

CHARLES DEERING  
137 South LaSalle Street  
Chicago, Illinois.

July 26th, 1919.



Dear Mr. Fisher :

My compliments to Miami Beach for the wise ordinance protecting birds. . . May they enforce it strictly. I should like to add two suggestions for your own consideration?

First, the lack of any curb on cats, etc, arch enemy of birds - and -

Second, the protection of squirrels. Some eat birds's eggs and all frighten birds and interfere with their nesting. A friend of mine, now dead, introduced them at Evanston many years ago and secured the passage of an ordinance protecting them, and they multiplied until they became a great public nuisance - and now shooting them is permitted tho' it is really against the law to shoot within the city limits. In my house here I have shot them in possession of Martins' and other birds' houses.

I trust you and Mrs. Fisher are well, and with kind regards to both, remain -

Yours very truly,

(signed) Charles Deering.

*Clayton*

34  
22

74  
300  
16200

74  
200  
14800

*See Nelson's  
no tickets*

*No Woods  
Rip rights*

August 6th, 1919.

Mr. James Deering,  
137 South LaSalle Street,  
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Deering :

I am sending you herewith a rough drawing which is not, by considerable, accurate but which will, I think, convey to you the message that I want to get to you.

I have recently purchased from the State of Florida about 32-acres of ground adjoining the Causeway, and marked on this drawing " C.G.F. Land ". I have also just purchased the 30-acre piece of property immediately south of the harbor entrance, and the drawing I enclose you shows the proposed fill of this 30-acres, adding 48-acres.

It has occurred to me that you and Mr. Matheson own some very valuable property on Cape Florida - if you had a good entrance to this property. It is quite possible that a drawbridge could be connected up, as shown on this drawing - and if you were the owner of Virginia Key you could put a bridge across Morris Cut and another bridge across Bears Cut, which would give you a boulevard entrance to Cape Florida property.

Ocean front property will outsell Bay front property, and it is only a question of three or four years until there is going to be a very great demand for large blocks of Ocean front property, particularly that property which has been filled and is practically rid of mosquitoes. You may not be at all interested in the further development of Cape Florida but it is a wonderful piece of property and with the proper boulevard connections to the mainland could be made to show some very handsome profits.

I am trying to secure a price on Virginia Key before it becomes known that I have purchased the 30-acres adjoining the harbor entrance. The purchase price of this 30-acres was \$42,000, and while I considered it an exorbitant price for a piece of swamp land, it was necessary in order to carry out some of my plans. If you have any plans for the development of Cape Florida along the lines I have suggested, I think it is necessary for Virginia Key to be purchased at once by you. I would be very glad to purchase Virginia Key myself and hold it for future development, as I have no doubt that with the proper connections by draw-bridge it would offer some very beautiful property entirely surrounded by water and well located. In the event that I am able to secure a reasonable price on Virginia Key, I would be very glad to turn it over to you. I am sure the price of Virginia Key would soar to unheard



Mr. James Deering. #2. August 6th, 1919.

of figures when it becomes known that 30-acres of swamp have just been sold for \$42,000.

If you are interested, let me hear from you.

Sincerely yours,

CGF:R

August 7th, 1919.

Mr. Charles Deering,  
137 South LaSalle Street,  
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Deering :

I have yours of the 26th : I think it would be a good idea for us to get rid of the cats at the Beach but if we got rid of the cats the mice would multiply, and I don't know of anything we can do to head off rats and mice. We have a cat at our own house and since he has been on the job we haven't seen a rat or mouse around the place. On the other hand, at our own home we have a very large number of birds constantly in the yard - so I am inclined to believe the matter is pretty well adjusted without getting rid of the cats.

It will be some time before we have squirrels at the Beach, I believe.

Thanking you for your letter and with kind personal regards,

Yours very truly,

CCF:R

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SEVEN  
SOUTH LA SALLE STREET

Chicago, August 19, 1919.

Dear Mr. Fisher:--

Referring again to your letter of the 6th inst., your suggestion as to the future development of Key Biscayne, owned almost entirely by Commodore Matheson and myself, is certainly interesting. Since he owns the northern part, with the exception of a portion still held, as I understand it, by the Government, anything done by me looking to the future uses of Key Biscayne would be fruitless unless he also were interested. I am, therefore, taking the liberty of sending a copy of your letter to him, knowing, as I do and as I am sure you do, that he will carefully keep the confidence of which you speak in your letter. I have no doubt that I shall hear from him on the subject in due course, and you shall then hear from me.

Yours sincerely,

*James D. Brown*

Carl G. Fisher, Esq.,

Indianapolis, Ind.

*refer from  
Brown's letter!*

August 22nd, 1919.

Mr. James Deering,  
137 South LaSalle Street,  
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Deering :

Further in regard to the acquisition of  
Virginia Key : I just have the following advice  
from our Mr. W. E. Brown :

"The southwestern end, or practically all  
of Virginia Key fronting on Bears Cut, is held by the  
United States Government, while all of the remainder  
except the northern tip of the Island is owned by  
Fred H. Rand, Jr. and E. A. Waddell. Rand owns  
four-fifths undivided of the tract, about 440 acres, and  
Waddell one-fifth. Rand is out of town, will return the  
latter part of this week, and Waddell agreed to make a  
price next week.

If looking for a low price, we could not  
pick out two men from whom it would be more difficult  
to get a bargain, but I will find out ~~your~~ their selling  
price."

Will keep you advised.

Yours very truly,

CGF:R

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SEVEN  
SOUTH LA SALLE STREET

Chicago, August 27, 1919.

Dear Mr. Fisher:--

I have a letter from Commodore Matheson, in which he says that he considers your suggestion for the development of Key Biscayne through the ownership of Virginia Key interesting. He, like myself, is grateful to you for the suggestion, and would be glad to have any further information that you can give regarding prices. The Government owns part at least of the north end of Key Biscayne. I do not know if it owns all that fronts on Bear Cut. Your recent statement that the Government actually owns all of Virginia Key fronting on Bear Cut is certainly interesting. If it owns all of this land it would be a question, of course, whether such a bridge as you have suggested could be made.

Yours very sincerely,

*W. M. Matheson*

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Carl G. Fisher, Esq.,

Indianapolis, Ind.

August 29th, 1919.

Mr. James Deering,  
137 So. LaSalle Street,  
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Deering :

Replying to yours of August 25th : I sent you an extract, a few days ago, from Mr. Brown's letter in which he stated that Mr. Rand and Mr. Waddell are interested in Virginia Key and that they are rather stiff people to do business with.

Virginia Key is of more interest to you than it is to our company, and the fact that the Government owns both ends of Virginia Key should make the plan I outlined to you easier instead of harder to handle. It would be no trouble at all to make proper arrangements with the Government if you cared to do so.

As per previous letter, I thought that Mr. Brown might save you a lot of money if you were interested in Virginia Key, by getting an option on the purchase for you before the published sale of the 40-acres north of Virginia Key. This deed, however, will soon have to be made a matter of record - and I am sending word to Mr. Brown to do nothing further in regard to Virginia Key; so that if you wish to take the matter up direct you may do so, and there will have been in the meantime no inquiries on the Virginia Key properties.

Yours very truly,

CGF:R



September 2nd, 1919.

Mr. James Deering,  
157 South LaSalle Street,  
Chicago, Illinois.

My dear Mr. Deering :

Replying to your last letter : I just have a letter from Mr. Brown, copy of which I enclose. Also a letter from Fred Rand, copy enclosed.

I did not know, when I wrote you, that it is possible the lines of the new property which I purchased may include a part of Virginia Key. It is quite possible that Mr. Rand does not know this. It may be that we only have ten feet of Virginia Key and it may be that we have 150 or 200 feet. Until I get further information from Mr. Brown, I can only guess at our holdings.

At least you can depend upon this - in case you wish to go ahead with any plans that you and Mr. Matheson may make, we would be very glad to turn any holdings we may have on Virginia Key over to you on a very satisfactory arrangement.

I remember that Virginia Key was offered at \$60,000 a short time ago, and I think the price of \$125,000, without the owners having any direct outlet, is ridiculous. In fact, I considered \$60,000 enough for that swamp land. However, prices are soaring in Miami on everything - peanuts to elephants - just the same - prices going up.

I am inclined to believe that an offer of somewhere between fifty or sixty thousand dollars would purchase Virginia Key - possibly less. I will be very glad to look over the ground with you any time after November first and give you all the information I can to help you. I would like to see your property filled, the mosquitoes driven off, and the possibility of preparing for a very large population, particularly along the Ocean front. I may not agree with you in a comparison of the Ocean front with the Bay front - but I wouldn't expect you to - but you have a magnificent property across the Bay that would show some wonderful returns if properly handled.

Yours very truly,

GGF:R

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SEVEN  
SOUTH LA SALLE STREET

Chicago, September 3, 1919.

Dear Mr. Fisher:--

Many thanks for your letter of the 29th ult. I think it quite possible that your statement is correct, viz., that the Government would make no objection to connecting the islands as you suggested. I know the two men who own Virginia Key by reputation and fancy it is not probable that we could get any bargain out of them.

Yours sincerely,

Carl G. Fisher, Esq.,  
Indianapolis, Ind.

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SEVEN  
SOUTH LA SALLE STREET

Chicago, September 4, 1919.

Dear Mr. Fisher:--

Please accept my best thanks for your letter of September 2d with its enclosures. The wonders of the fairy stories of my youth were hardly greater than the wonders of Miami property. All this occurs also without deep water or the drainage of the Everglades. Should these two events come and be successful, I fear Miami would grow to such proportions that you and I would wish to go elsewhere for a quiet home. For some time past I have been very much impressed with the future of all the property that you are developing, and I am not at all in the doubtful mood about it that you rather impute to me.

I have exchanged a number of letters with Commodore Matheson on the subject of our becoming interested in the thought that you have suggested. I think under the present circumstances that no harm would come to the idea if further discussion of it is postponed until we are all once more in Miami. I thank you on his behalf and on my own for your kind interest and trouble and for your willingness to let us have any part of the property that may prove to be yours.

Yours very sincerely,



Carl G. Fisher, Esq.,  
Indianapolis, Ind.

WIZCAYA  
MIAMI  
FLORIDA

February 19, 1920.

Dear Mr. Fisher:

I beg to thank you for your letter which came on Monday, and which for some unknown reason has temporarily utterly disappeared. Having the contents in mind, however, I wish to say that you are entirely right in supposing that I have the interests of Mr. Chalfin at heart. I am afraid, however, that I cannot further them at this time in the way that you suggest.

I have started up the work on my place, the completion of which unfortunately demands a further heavy expenditure. Between us, I am borrowing the money to carry on this activity. I could not justify myself in borrowing any further sums than my own work requires.

With kindest regards, I am

Yours very truly,

*James D. Wain*

Mr. Carl G. Fisher,  
Miami Beach, Fla.

Original letter from Mr. McCormick  
sent to Humpage with copy.

June 3rd, 1921.

M-Cormick  
Mr. Chauncey McCormick,  
137 S. La Salle Street,  
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. McCormick:

Replying to your letter of May 11th. I am very sorry that I have not given this letter earlier attention but I wanted to hear from Miami first, as to the progress of our bird museum at the Beach. I have just had a letter from Miami and they advise that on account of financial stringency they thought they would let the museum for birds go for the present and possibly start up this fall.

You have a lot of birds that we would like to have but there isn't any possible chance of our buying any at this time. I would like, however, to make some sort of a deal with you so take over a big part of your collection. As soon as our museum can be fitted up, I want to give you either real estate or a long time note. I wish you would kindly make me a price on your whole list of birds, if you are interested in the suggestion I make.

Very truly yours,

CGF:EM

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Night Message	
Night Letter	
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# WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM



NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Receiver's No.
Check
Time Filed

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

**Indianapolis, Indiana, Sept. 1st, 1921.**

**Mr. Mark B. Holeman,  
Alton Beach Realty Co.,  
Miami Beach, Florida.**

**Mail check for three hundred dollars to H. U. Salie, number one Kaluwelle, Galle, Ceylon if same has not already been sent.**

**Carl C. Fisher.**

**Prepaid**



December 15th, 1921.

My dear Mr. Deering :

Thanks very much for your kindness in offering to send out your boat to look me up yesterday - and I am very sorry that Mrs. Fisher was so anxious as to cause others anxiety.

With the wind blowing off shore here, you can hardly realize the terrific seas we had on the Bahama coast. It was impossible to leave the Banks either Sunday, Monday or Tuesday, and yesterday was the first opportunity we had to get over.

I hope at some time in the future that I can return the favor.

With kindest regards -

Yours very truly,

GGF:R

Mr. James Deering,  
Miami - Florida.

# JAMES DEERING PROPERTY

MIAMI, FLORIDA

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO  
JAMES DEERING PROPERTY

F. L. MCGINNIS,  
MANAGER  
GEORGE PEARCE,  
SUPERINTENDENT

March 16, 1922.

Dear Mr. Fisher:

We are trying to plant up a part of the estate to appear as tropical as possible. To do this I need a good many of the wild vines and plants that grow on the beach near the seashore. If one of your companies owns the tract just beyond the recently developed tract north of the Snowden place, I should very greatly appreciate your permission to take from it some of the vines and wild growth and also the cabbage palms, if you will let us have them. With the exception of the palms, what we take would never be missed, and I venture to ask for the palms because when the tract is filled, as you know, they will be destroyed.

If you would like a more definite statement of what I want, I should be glad to come over and talk to you or one of your men at any time you set.

Yours very truly,

*F. L. McGinnis*

Carl G. Fisher, Esq.  
c/o Alton Beach Realty Co.  
Miami Beach, Florida.

April 7, 1922.

Mr. James Deering,  
Miami, Florida.

My dear Mr. Deering:

We have recently sold to an oil company six acres of the property across the cut, and we are about to negotiate a deal with a steamship company for the wharf.

I think I mentioned to you once before the very great advantage of having your Key connected with the Causeway by a draw bridge and the road across our Peninsular property, and if you and Mr. Mathewson could close this matter up now by purchasing that part of Virginia Key which I do not own, you would save yourselves a good many hundred dollars in the future. After work once starts south of the cut it is going to be a difficulty for you to manipulate your purchase. I estimate that you have a very valuable property for the future beach sales.

If you are too busy to handle this matter I can attend to it for you, or if you want to talk the matter over with me before any further announcements are made, I will be very glad to go into the matter further with you.

We recently sold twenty-three acres of ocean front for \$300,000.00, on which will be erected a one and one-half million dollar hotel. It is only a question of five years until all this south property could be bought on the market and sold at an average price of \$20,000.00 per acre.

Yours very truly,

CARL G. FISHER.

VIZCAYA  
MIAMI  
FLORIDA

April 10, 1922.

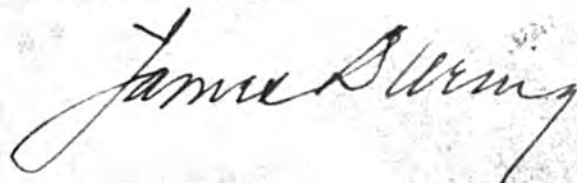
Dear Mr. Fisher,

Please accept my thanks for your interesting letter of the 7th inst. I have much appreciated the interest that you have taken in the future of my property, and I am sure that Mr. Matheson has had the same feeling.

He is, as you no doubt know, at the present time completing a journey around the world. I am laid up just at present and am not able to give the matter serious consideration nor, much to my regret, able to see you concerning it.

I will reserve your letter for future consideration when I get on my feet again. With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Carl G. Fisher,  
331 Lincoln Road,  
Miami Beach, Fla.

*Deering*

# JAMES DEERING PROPERTY

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ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO  
JAMES DEERING PROPERTY

MIAMI, FLORIDA

F. L. MCGINNIS,  
MANAGER

Jan. 29th, 1925.

Dear Mr. Fisher:

Mr. H. Armstrong Roberts presented your letter to Mr. Deering day before yesterday and I talked with him, as Mr. Deering is not able to see people. I held him up a day hoping to get an opportunity to see Mr. Deering, but did not, so I had to take the responsibility myself of refusing to grant his request, which I disliked very much to do, since it came through you. But as Mr. Deering has consistently declined to give permission for publication of any photographs of the place in magazines, excepting the issue of the Architectural Review, I did not feel justified in making an exception. As Mr. Roberts is interested mainly in tropical scenery I hope the omission of this place will not matter much.

Yours very truly,

Carl G. Fisher, Esq.,  
Miami Beach,  
Florida.

*F. L. McGinnis*  
Mr.

Feb. 2, 1925.

Mr. F. L. McGinnis, Manager,  
James Deering Property,  
Miami, Fla.

Dear Mr. McGinnis:

Thanks for your letter of the 29th. I am very sorry to hear that Mr. Deering is not very well, and hope that he will soon be out again.

I would not have bothered Mr. Deering with the letter except that Mr. Roberts had some very strong letters of recommendation from northern magazines who are carrying a great deal of southern advertising, and these magazines were very anxious to get some handsome photographs of some of our best homes here.

I know just what a nuisance photographers are as a rule, and I don't blame you a particle in the stand you took.

Yours very truly,

CGF-mc