

Gambling

May 5th, 1920.

Mr. James H. Snowden,
437 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Jim :

I have yours of the first : We made up our minds some three months ago to turn our Casino into a Club and engaged Chalfin to draw plans for changing the entrance stairways, etc - and we have already engaged a man to run it on the Club plan.

Mr. Nichols, this years Manager, thot that he had a couple of friends who would purchase the Casino and run it as a Club, and he talked to Mr. Eaton - but the trouble with Eaton and his outfit is that they haven't the cash to invest. They want to work some plan whereby other people will put up the money and when they get thru with their manipulation they will own some of the stock as a bonus for their efforts.

I would be perfectly willing to sell them 500 feet of ground north of your property, under some pretty stiff restrictions - particularly gambling. But our whole property up there would be ruined if a Club up there got a bad start, and the more they have in as stockholders, the more liable they are to get a bad start - just such a start as the Bimini Bay Club has at the present time. I think for a small Club to be built up there on our property would be a mighty good thing - but it should be financed by four or five, possibly six people, and not by a miscellaneous lot of stockholders and promoters.

Sales are keeping up very strong, even at this time of the year. John was just in and told me that he sold \$18,000 worth of property yesterday.

Yours very truly,

CGF:R

SNOWDEN & McSWEENEY CO.

ROOM 208
708 1/2 HOUSTON STREET

FORT WORTH, TEXAS.

May 11 1920

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

Dear Carl:

Your letter of the 5th just received, and note your remarks about converting the present Casino into a club. I have no doubt but that your plan might work out satisfactorily, provided another club was not started farther north on a little more elaborate plan and perhaps more exclusive. In my opinion, the present Casino will continue to do all the business they can take care of, even if another club was put up farther north.

I quite agree with you that the restrictions of a club, as contemplated on the beach, should be carried out to the letter, especially as to gambling. I have made such restrictions and told Mr. Eaton that I would not consider it under any circumstances, so I believe he understands that part of it very well.

I feel very confident that a small club-house built on your property would be a good thing for all concerned, and probably should not have too many stock holders, as you say, but instead should be financed by five or six people. I would be very glad to join with you and a few others in building such a club. My thought in writing you about your property was to possibly save the club some money in the purchase of a property, - this money could be used to better advantage in the club-house and beautifying the grounds.

Mr. Chalpin was in the office a few days before I left New York and showed me plans that he had made for a club-house, but I believe they are entirely on too large and too elaborate a plan and would probably cost something like \$200,000 to erect the buildings. We should be able to build a nice club-house for \$125,000 and furnish it for \$25,000 additional, and to this will have to be added the cost of the property. Let me know what you decide to do further.

Am pleased to hear that the Miami Ocean View Company are still selling lots, and hope that you are doing likewise. When I get my shallow water wells connected to the pump, believe will have a very nice system, and the water should be quite an improvement on the deep water.

For sometime we have discussed the matter of drilling a well on the northwest side of Florida, and I believe that if you can secure the 90,000 or 100,000 acres which your friend owns I can arrange to get about four or five people, or companies, to put in their share, along with ours, for drilling a well. The prospect is pretty fair for finding something from about 3000 to 3500 feet deep, but, of course, a well would probably cost \$50,000 or thereabouts. In case we did not find any oil, there would be a salvage of the pipe which would be about \$20,000, so if we could secure about six people to go in on the well, our loss, in case of a dry hole, would probably not exceed \$5000 or \$6000. You, no doubt, know that fuel oil is now worth \$3.25 per barrel, and they are getting wells in Texas just across the Gulf. My theory is that the sand comes up in Florida same as in Texas, - the big dip being in between in the Gulf, and, therefore, think favorable of our chances. *(for each one)*

I expect to be in Texas for a week or ten days longer, and will then go direct to New York.

Hoping to hear from you about these matters, and with best regards, I am

Very truly yours,

J. H. Snowden

May 21st, 1920.

Mr. James H. Snowden,
437 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Jim :

I have yours of the 11th : I told Mr. Eaton just before I left Miami that I would join his Club and help in the matter but that I did not want to be a Director. I want somebody else to do the directing and managing of the next club that is started. I feel that I have had all the managing and directing I want at this time. I am thorely satisfied that a new bunch of club people would get along much better to go on their own hook.

However, this thing is well set in my mind : that I would not want to assist in the building of a club that would cost less than a hundred thousand dollars. I don't believe that a proper club could be built for a smaller sum - and certainly it would cost \$25,000 additional to furnish it. And if there isn't some first class chef under first class management, charging reasonably high prices, the club couldn't make any money on the eating privileges and would have to depend upon dues to make up for this loss. This is to be expected - so that you must have probably 200 members with dues at \$100 a year, to carry the club out of the losses made on the restaurant.

I haven't heard from my friend, Dave Sommers, for a long time - but I will drop him a note and tell him what you say about building a well over in Florida, and will then let you hear from me as soon as I hear from him.

For your information : We sold ten lots at \$150 a front foot on the west side of Flamingo Bay, formerly Indian Creek, before I left. These lots adjoin yours to the south. We agreed to improve the lots but they are not as handsome as yours and no doubt you can sell yours for an average of \$200 a foot next year, after a road and some other improvements are in.

Yours very truly,

GCF:R

May 29th 1920.

Mr. H. H. Flagler,
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Flagler:

I am sending you under separate cover a copy of the local paper, and you will note a marked article which I desire to call to your attention. This shaft is to be erected by Mr. Carl Fisher, a young man who not only did not have the pleasure of personally knowing your father, but who, as well as I remember, started his work in this section after 1913.

I mention these facts to show you that Mr. Fisher has no selfish motive, but the memorial which he proposes to erect, to perpetuate the memory of your father, is his tribute to the great work which he did, not only for the City of Miami and the State of Florida, but for this great country of ours.

Mr. Fisher enjoyed no early advantages, but like Florida's great developer he worked his way forward by his indomitable spirit and energy, and though still younger than you or I his business career has been marked by the greatest success. This success, far from turning his head, finds him to-day as modest a young man as could be found in any community.

His permanent home is in Indianapolis, but the enormous work which he has laid out on the Peninsula opposite Miami requires his presence here many months in the year. Some day I hope you will have the pleasure of knowing him, as he is the kind of man, I am sure, that you would have great admiration for.

With cordial wishes to you and your family, I am,

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) Jno. B. Leiby

November 27, 1928.

Mr. Ed Ballard,
French Lick,
Indiana.

Dear Ed:

Thanks for yours received this morning. Of course this proposition of yours would not interest either myself or John. We already have too much business. In the old days, we were under the impression that gambling houses on the Beach were a strong disadvantage, and we still think that gambling houses, as the word goes, would be a disadvantage except for the matter of Beauville. Beauville is in the hands of all sorts of troubles and I understand recently they have made an arrangement with Tex Rickard. The place is in such terrible repair and such an eye sore to the Beach it would be really a benefit if it were turned into a livery stable rather than stand as it is now. I imagine Rickard, if he does take it over, will fix it up.

We need additional facilities for our hotel guests at the bathing beach. The Bath Club is full and quite exclusive and does not care particularly to cater to our transients. Our hotels suffer considerably through lack of proper beach facilities. If Rickard takes this place and fixes it up in nice shape, it will save us an investment and also save us competition with the beach bathing houses and would give us a high grade cabaret in the northern part of the property where it would be least noticeable.

I was under the impression you had practically disposed of all your holdings, or at least the control of the Island Club. I want to tell you about J. G. C. Cocoran who wants to open a place over here. We do not care for any more places at the Beach if same can be avoided but it occurred to me Cocoran as he seems to be a very clean cut fellow might be a possible purchaser for your property. You are no doubt acquainted with him. There are so many rumors flying around here it is hard to keep tabs on them.

I will be glad to see you when you get back from Europe. Best regards.

OGF

June 6th, 1930.

Mr. C. G. Fisher,
Montauk Beach, L. I.
New York.

Dear Sir:

Mr. Horbin came over to the office yesterday and told me they had disposed of all those things in one lot. He was of the opinion that it would not keep until fall. He claims that he had to stand a loss on this transaction and I will take the matter up in detail with you when I see you next month.

The Primary Election held here Tuesday June 3rd, was a success as far as we were concerned. We elected our entire slate with the exception of two, McCaskill for County Solicitor and Railey for County Commissioner, 3rd District, and these two will run it off in the second Primary June 24th. It looks as if we will elect them both.

We had plenty of opposition from the home guards down here, including such people as Red Snedigar, Judge Frank Katzentine, Ben Shepard and others. They were working for Pine and Swink, but Hawthorne, our State Attorney beat Swink by 2500, thereby giving him a plurality.

Our Citizens League organization elected all five of the Executive Committeemen on the beach, which gives us control. I consider this an important step in perfecting this organization. I understand another group of men are trying to get up a similar organization, but with little success.

In my last letter I told you I would try to find out how Capone was operating on the Beach, and who was taking care of him. The Island Club opened this past winter January 15th under a new management, and Capone has one-fourth interest for which he paid \$25,000 to the present owners. He also had a one-fourth interest in the Floridian Hotel gambling room, in which he installed crooked gambling devices. He had two Chicago gun men stationed in this room at \$40.00 a night to protect it from any outside interference. He also owns the controlling interest in the South Beach dog track, and Carters gambling house, as well as Albert Bouche's Villa Venice. He tried to muscle in at the Deauville Casino, but was refused, and after some kind of a threat, some men were brought from New York to protect Deauville from Capones crowd.

The pay-off for gambling on the beach this winter was as follows; Dan Chappel, our recently elected representative from this district was the collector from the Sherriff's office under the guise of attorney for his clients, and any gambling house opening in Miami Beach had to have the O K of our City Manager Renshaw.

2nd.

Harry McCarthy, Renshaw, and other Councilmen were the ones who seemed to have control of these privileges from the City's standpoint.

The Roman Polls Casino was raided one night this winter by private detectives, and all the gambling paraphernalia was taken out, and the owner Frank Dineen sent word to the Sherriff's office that if his gambling paraphernalia was not brought back to his place by the following day, he would have somebody in jail, as he was paying \$1000 a week protection, and he would not stand for a double cross. The next day the paraphernalia was returned to his place.

Ralph Kervens, a bootlegger was highjacked of 300 cases of whiskey by the Sherriff's office, the whiskey being taken to Hialeah and stored in a barn where the bootlegger who lost it, located it, and went with his own trucks and gang to recover it. While they were loading it the Hialeah police arrived, and placed them all under arrest and took their liquer to the Hialeah police station where the Sherriff's office came and took 100 cases, and sold it to the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables. This was reported to the government and they made an investigation, but somebody brought them off.

The above incidents will show you the futility of trying to rid the community of a man like Capone, with our present City and County officials.

I have some records in my possession which I will show you personally when I arrive there, of things which I am sure will be of interest to you.

Regarding a reward for Emma Olson, Lincoln Hotel maid, I have taken the matter up with Mr. Kunschik and he suggested we give her \$25.00. During the season, I had this matter brought up at a meeting of the Hotel Managers and suggested that there be a reward offered to any employee giving valuable information of this character. However my suggestion was ignored and nothing done about it.

Yours very truly

Mike

MJG:m

P.S. I also learned from the police stationed at Capones house, that they did not have any orders to arrest Capone at any time. They were told to call Police headquarters when he went out and to take license number of cars visiting there.

Gambony

The Long Island Rail Road Company
General Office, Pennsylvania Station

New York, July 16th, 1930.

G. LE BOUTILLIER,
VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. Carl G. Fisher,
Montauk, N. Y.

Dear Skipper:

Please note the attached clipping from the World of Monday, July 14th, in regard to the Montauk Island Club. No doubt this was written by some reporter who was trailing Mayor Walker.

I think it would be well if Steve Hanigan could watch out for these fellows to try to head off stories of this kind and keep the reporters in a friendly frame of mind.

Yours sincerely,

