

Levi, John

OFFICERS:

JAMES H. SNOWDEN, PRESIDENT
 J. E. LUMMUS, VICE-PRESIDENT
 JOHN H. LEVI, SECY-TREAS.

DIRECTORS:

JAMES H. SNOWDEN
 J. E. LUMMUS
 JOHN H. LEVI
 CARL G. FISHER
 HENRY McSWEENEY
 FRANK B. SHUTTS
 ARTHUR C. NEWBY

THE MIAMI OCEAN VIEW COMPANY
OWNERS OF STAR ISLAND

OFFICE: FIFTH STREET AND ALTON ROAD
 MIAMI, BEACH, FLA.

May 21, 1919.

Levi

Mr. Carl G. Fisher,
 442 N. Capitol Ave.,
 Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Carl:-

Your letter with the tracing of the property between the Causeway and the Deep Water Channel received; also copy of letter from Colonel Edgerton. I think it would be foolish to make any move on this property at all until you get a permit from the State. I have been trying to get a copy of the decision of the Supreme Court, that was given some days ago, regarding the Burlingame Islands at the mouth of the Miami River. It seems that the Supreme Court ruled unanimously that she was entitled to a deed from the State and they instructed the I. I. F. Board to give a deed to these Islands, so it looks like the State has a right to sell the bottom of the Bay, and I should think if it refers to that side of the Bay it would refer to this side also. I think it would be a good plan to send McDuffee to Tallahassee to try to get this matter straightened out.

Regarding closing the streets and alleys for the nine hole golf links, as I stated previously I have had this matter up with the Council for some time. We have given it two readings in the Council and the next, and final, reading, of course can not be held until the regular council meeting, which will be two weeks from last night. While all the Councilmen voted in favor of closing the streets and alleys, it was intimated that should any party living even as far over as Miami Ave. and who had bought property from the Miami Ocean View Company in the past, wish to insist upon these streets being opened, they could do so, the same as any property owner has a right to do after buying property on a recorded plat. However, I do not think there will be any one to object in the near future at least, although I would not be surprised but what parties living over on Miami Ave., should they desire to use these streets running through to Alton Road, would try to have them opened.

We are having a lot of rain now and it makes it a little difficult working on Star Island. We have the road practically all graded around the Island and are putting rock on it; also putting some muck through the parkway strip. You, no doubt, have the

blue print of the layout of the lots by this time, showing seven at the end instead of six. Col. Edgerton recommended a bridge with eight feet clearance instead of fifteen feet, but requested me to wait until he had sent the permit to Washington, as all bridge plans must go to Washington. I am expecting them back any day now. This will be a great help.

We are down 815 feet with the well; are having some trouble with the well drillers, who are soldiering on the job because they know they are down in the neighborhood of water, and they are working very slowly. If I fire them I will have to shut down and send north and run a chance of getting new drillers, but it is getting almost unbearable. Kiser's two sons who are working with him are causing all the trouble. They are just back from the Army.

X I had a letter from Mr. Snowden yesterday. He was in Fort Worth, Tex. Says he hopes to get down some time this summer. Mr. Newby is down to the office every day - I certainly will miss him when he goes away. I do not feel like I can spend the time to get up to the races as things are quite busy around here.

X You wired me some time ago to reserve a lot and a half on the east side of Star Island for Jim Allison, but you stated in your letter that Jim had picked out two houses for the west side. Has he decided not to take a lot and a half on the east side? What would you recommend that the tennis courts be made out of - concrete or clay? Please give me this information as I am ready to begin putting in the courts, and I am in hopes that you marked off on the blue print about where you would consider the best location.

X I notice you are starting three houses along the Bay. On the one house that Bastian is to put up, he is getting ready to drive 300 piles for the foundation. The other two houses, I understand, are not to have any piling. I do not know whether it is because the houses are lighter and of different construction, but it does seem quite queer that one house should take 300 piles and that two along side of it should require none.


Caill is almost up to the bridge with the bulkhead on one side, and I am anxious for him to get through in the Canal so that he can start on Star Island.

X Mr. Newby will take up some matters with you when he comes north and I hope you will settle just what lots Allison wants, and what lots you have decided to build on so that we can get that part settled, and also where you think the Ocean View Co. should build their two houses.

The Causeway is progressing very slowly. I was

Mr. Carl G. Fisher --- Page #3

out inspecting it the other day, and along the middle of the Bay where there was some of the soft material like we had on the southwest corner of the Island, it has settled about 1:1-2 ft. They have a dredge there filling it again, but it is impossible to work teams or trucks on it to any advantage, especially when it rains. They have taken all of the spoil bank down as far as they have gone but there was not enough material to bring it up to grade.

 You evidently took the sketch of the Yacht Club with you as it was not in your office. I found the ground plan but not the elevation sketch.

Yours very truly,

THE MIAMI OCEAN VIEW COMPANY

John H. Levie

Secretary.

JHL-C

Mr. Carl G. Fisher --- Page #5

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COPY

HAYANA AMERICAN STEAMSHIP CORPORATION

Unpaid subscriptions to capital stock

Drake Lumber Company, Miami, Fla.	\$2,000.00	
Metropolis Publishing Co., Miami, Fla.	1,000.00	
J. B. Orr, Miami, Fla.	<u>500.00</u>	<u>\$3,500.00</u>

COPY

HAVANA AMERICAN STEAMSHIP CORPORATION

NOTES PAYABLE

<u>NUMBER OF NOTE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DUE</u>	<u>PRINCIPAL</u>	
			<u>TO BANKS</u>	<u>MISCELLANEOUS</u>
5	Alley-Bells & Co.	2-3-21		\$ 3,500.00
24	Duncan & Mount	4-13-21		2,670.28
25	Duncan & Mount	5-15-21		2,670.27
52	Southern Bank & Trust Co.	3-30-22	\$10,000.00	
35	Heller, Klein & Co.	7-29-21		1,200.00
37	Swift & Co.	8-2-21		700.00
38	Poole Bros.	1-5-22		150.00
51	Osborn & Co.	2-1-22		10,000.00
53	Smith, Richardson & Conroy	1-1-22		437.90
42	1st National Bank of Miami	11-18-21	7,500.00	
47	1st National Bank of Miami	1-1-22	7,500.00	
46	1st National Bank of Miami	11-29-21	10,000.00	
48	Biscayne Electric Supply Co.	21-1-21		100.00
49	Southern Utilities Co.	2-1-22		505.00
50	Belcher Asphalt Paving Co.	10-17-21		<u>4,000.00</u>
			\$35,000.00	\$25,933.45

COPY

HAVANA AMERICAN STEAMSHIP CORPORATION

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Baker Yacht Basin	‡ 3,000.78
Beach Construction Co.	500.20
Bel-Jar Coffee Co.	99.70
Bohnert Sheet Metal & Roofing Co.	76.50
Chamber of Commerce	120.00
Chase, Geo. E. & Co.	100.00
Crenshaw Bros.	500.00
Crosby Transportation Co.	40,885.98
Cuban Head Tax	77.00
Cuban Stamp Tax	2.50
Dorland Advertising Agency	214.56
David, R. O. Publishing Co.	100.00
Drake Lumber Co.	180.32
Drake Produce Co.	261.39
Fisher, Carl G.	4,000.00
Flintner-Atwood Co.	61.13
Florida Metropolis	100.00
Florida Times-Union	100.00
Foster & Reynolds	674.66
Garrett Paint & Hardware Co.	105.73
Gazette News Co.	109.00
Gulf Refining Co.	5.20
Hefty Press, The	198.25
Hill Bros.	301.35
Hirsch Co. Theo.	100.00
Hodgman, Cecil	45.00
Hotel Halcyon Corporation	853.32
Indianapolis Poultry Corporation	995.00
Jenkins, F. H.	15.00
Lewis-Chitty Co.	3.90
Metropolis Publishing Co.	266.73
Miami Beach Electric Co.	775.24
Miami Hardware Paint & Glass Co.	112.97
Miami Herald	233.00
Miami Laundry Co.	907.31
Miami Tripure Water Co.	375.30
Miller, Mack & Fairchild	76.02
McDonald, J. A.	89.50
National Biscuit Co.	19.02
Osborn, F. H.	4,000.00
Osborn, F. H. & C. R.	8.65
Osborn & Co., New York	1,700.79
Pedroso, Jacinto & Co.	2,513.37
National Ry. Publishing Co.	80.00
Pettingill-Andrews Co.	73.13
Philadelphia Record	60.00
Sinclair Cuba Oil Co.	1,842.04
Robinson, E. A.	84.00
Seybold Baking Co.	200.00
Ship Owners Radio Service	121.23
Smith, W. P.	900.00
South Atlantic Tel. & Tel. Co.	37.47
State of Delaware	98.05
Talbott, Jr., H. E.	4,000.00
Typewriter Shop	12.50
Underwood Typewriter Co.	75.00
U. S. Head Tax Payable	96.00
Withers Transfer & Storage Co.	22.00
Wood, W. J.	3,862.44
Zaring, C. W. & Co.	405.95
	<u>\$76,784.48</u>

C O P Y

HAVANA AMERICAN STEAMSHIP CORPORATION

BALANCE SHEET

MAY 31, 1921

ASSETS

CAPITAL ASSETS

Steamer & Equipment		\$655,055.22	
Organization & Preliminary expenses (including fit out, cost of bringing ship from Boston to Miami, discount on sale of stock, interest and other charges prior to inauguration of regular service)		107,058.32	
Office furniture and fixtures		1,955.57	
Dock Equipment		<u>465.20</u>	\$764,535.31

CURRENT ASSETS

Accounts receivable			
Return insurance premiums	\$12,500.00		
Unpaid subscriptions to Capital Stock	4,000.00		
Travel bureau and miscellaneous	<u>4,712.63</u>	21,212.63	
Inventory, fuel oil and sundry supplies		1,780.78	
Cash on hand and in banks		<u>1,757.89</u>	24,751.50

DEFERRED CHARGES

Unexpired insurance		516.72	
Prepaid interest on notes payable		<u>357.99</u>	874.71
			<u>\$790,161.32</u>

LIABILITIES

CAPITAL STOCK

Authorized- 8% preferred \$650,000.00 and 10,000 shares having no par value			
Issued and outstanding- 4,635 shares Preferred			
4,635 shares Common having no par value		\$463,500.00	
Subscribed for but not issued- 40 shares Preferred with 40 shares Common		<u>4,000.00</u>	\$467,500.00

PREFERRED FIRST MORTGAGE ON STEAMER AND EQUIPMENT 250,000.00

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Notes payable- To banks	\$57,500.00		
Miscellaneous	<u>27,240.55</u>	84,740.55	
Accrued interest on notes payable		6,651.01	
Accounts payable		<u>55,040.08</u>	
			<u>146,431.64</u>
			863,931.64
			<u>73,770.32</u>

DEFICIT

\$790,161.32

C O P Y

HAYANA AMERICAN STEAMSHIP CORPORATION

SUMMARY OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES

FROM JANUARY 1 1921 TO MAY 31 1921

REVENUE

Passenger-		
Transportation	\$92,056.50	
Parlors	1,505.00	
Sale of meals, etc.	6,648.85	
Special excursion	3,500.00	
Excess baggage and miscellaneous	<u>863.89</u>	\$104,574.24

Freight-		
Automobiles and miscellaneous	<u>3,337.92</u>	\$107,912.16

EXPENSES

V Voyage	\$115,975.27	
General	<u>31,715.66</u>	\$147,690.93
Interest, discount and exchange	27,672.75	
Lay up expense	5,099.20	
Miscellaneous debit items	<u>1,219.60</u>	
	<u>33,991.55</u>	181,682.48
Loss for five months to May 31, 1921		73,770.32

OFFICERS:
JAMES H. SNOWDEN, PRESIDENT
JOHN H. LEVI, VICE PRES. AND TREAS.
CHAR. E. CLARK, SECRETARY

Levi

DIRECTORS
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JOHN H. LEVI
CARL G. FISHER
HENRY MOSWENEE
FRANK B. SHUTTS
H. E. DUCKWALL
RALPH FOLK

THE MIAMI OCEAN VIEW COMPANY
OWNERS OF STAR ISLAND

OFFICE FIFTH STREET AND ALTON ROAD
ENTRANCE TO CAUSEWAY

MIAMI BEACH, FLA.

October 8, 1921.

Mr. Carl G. Fisher,
434 N. Capitol Ave., Indianapolis, Ind.
Mr. H. E. Talbot,
Care Dayton Securities Co., Dayton, Ohio.

Gentlemen:

After being pressed so hard by Mr. Talbot to accept the trusteeship of the operating fund for the steamship City of Miami, I wired Mr. Crosby the following message:

"Will take trusteeship only for accommodation and to expedite matters and provided that the four parties named in Talbot's letter to me put in five thousand apiece stop We will put in our five thousand stop Will insist as soon as the boys all get here that they appoint another trustee in my place stop Am surprised at the amount of indebtedness of this boat and list of creditors."

I am just wondering whether you know what financial straits this ship is in. After I wired Crosby I received a financial statement and list of creditors I had asked him for. I think if I had gotten them first I would have refused to have anything to do with the boat. I am sending you a copy of this list of creditors and also a copy of the balance sheet. I would like to know just what they did pay out. It looks to me as if they must have been riding somebody, to get all this big list of creditors to carry them as long as they have, and it is very unfortunate for us to have all these people - especially those in Miami - trusting them. They probably thought the account was good because the Miami Beach crowd was interested in the ship. What they are going to do about paying these bills I do not know. This special fund for operation cannot be used to pay old bills, and I am not so sure how far \$25,000.00 will go toward getting her started this year.

Looking over the list of creditors would make one wonder whether they paid any bills. I am afraid a great many of these people are going to put liens on the boat, which will have to be paid before she can operate. You will note Belcher has a note for \$4,000.00 due the 17th of this month. I saw Belcher and he agreed to ride it out for awhile if they would pay \$1,000.00 on account; otherwise he probably would not give them oil enough to start on for this season.

You will note on Accounts Payable there is an item, "Crosby Transportation Co., \$40,855.98." I do not know what that item is, but you can see that this boat is hopelessly lost so far as making any money is concerned. Even if you figure two voyages a week, which is as much as she should make, with a full passenger list every trip, she could not

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OFFICE FIFTH STREET AND ALTON ROAD
 ENTRANCE TO CAUSEWAY

MIAMI BEACH, FLA.

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 RALPH FOLK

-2-

C. G. Fisher & H. E. Talbot - Joint - Oct. 8, 1921

begin to pay back any of her old accounts; and I am only going into it from an advertising standpoint, for the Beach.

The sheet of Summary of Revenue & Expenses shows that she took in \$107,912.16, and expended \$181,682.48 in five months, leaving a deficit of \$73,770.32. She no doubt can be operated at a considerable less expense, but nothing like what Crosby states, fifty per cent less. The only real reduction will be on the oil for fuel. According to Belcher's figures they paid him only about \$12,000.00 for the whole season's operations. I do not know how much they paid the Cuban outfit, as they got some oil over there. And then there is an account of Pedroso, Jacinto & Co., for \$2,513.37, which I take it is a Cuban outfit; what that is for I do not know.

However, I am just going into this, as I wired Crosby, to accommodate the crowd and do what we can to get them started; but I expect this \$25,000.00 will last a very short while.

I just this minute had a wire from Crosby thanking me for accepting the trusteeship and wiring that Drohan is coming down shortly to confer with me on matters in connection with the operation of the boat. I do not care to get mixed up in the management of this boat, only in an effort to do all I can to assist. When the boys all get here we will get together and see what is the best thing to do.

Very truly yours,

THE MIAMI OCEAN VIEW COMPANY,

John H. Levi
 Vice-President.

JHL-K

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Levi

CARL G. FISHER
INDIANAPOLIS
AND
MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA

November 10, 1927.

Mr. Harry McCarthy,
Miami Beach, Florida.

Dear Harry:

I have your wire of the tenth. I don't want to mix up in politics down there without knowing more about Brown. It seems that if Kohlhepp, Panccast, Chase and yourself are all in favor of this man Brown, you ought to have no trouble in convincing Levi and Mead, unless they have some good reason why Brown would not fit the job.

I feel like sticking very close to John because you know what he is as well as I do. He works hard and he knows the kind of people he can work with. John has saved the people of Miami Beach hundreds of thousands of dollars by sticking to the job and using a lot of horse sense.

I expect to be down there around the seventeenth.

Yours,

CGF:T

January 25, 1929.

Mr. John H. Levi,
Miami Beach.

Dear John:

Every so often somebody runs into the surroundings of the Riley Tree on Lincoln Road, tears up these flimsy concrete sidewalks and bumps into the tree. The night before last this outfit was wrecked again.

There is no reason why anybody should run into this tree, night or day, unless he is drunk. Why don't you put up some surrounding that would protect the tree, regardless of driver's heads? The tree means a lot to the Beach -- drunken drivers who run about mean nothing to us and the sooner we kill them off the better.

Yours,

CGF:T

POSTAL TELEGRAPH - COMMERCIAL CABLES

CLARENCE H. MACKAY, PRESIDENT

RECEIVED AT

136-04 - 38TH AVE.
FLUSHING, N. Y.
TEL. INDEPENDENCE 4367

STANDARD TIME
INDICATED ON THIS MESSAGE

TELEGRAMS
TO ALL
AMERICA



CABLEGRAMS
TO ALL
THE WORLD

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless otherwise indicated by signal in the check or in the address.

BLUE	DAY LETTER
NL	NIGHT LETTER
NITE	NIGHT TELEGRAM
LCO	DEFERRED
NLT	CABLE LETTER
WLT	WEEK END LETTER

N55 73 1/60 NL FS MIAMIBESACH FLO MAY 3 1929

CARL G FISHER

PORTWASHINGTON LONGISLAND NY

180
948

16TP-1778

TO SEND A MESSAGE
CALL POSTAL TELEGRAPH
OR DIAL INDEPENDENCE
4366-4367. IF DESIRED
CHARGES WILL APPEAR
ON YOUR TELEPHONE BILL

REPORT OF PAIL BUILDING PERMITS FOR TWELVE FLORIDA CITIES AS
FOLLOWS MIAMIBEACH FOUR HUNDRED SEVENTY FIVE THOUSAND
JACKSONVILLE FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY ONE THOUSAND PALMBEACH FOUR
HUNDRED THIRTY THREE THOUSAND MIAMI THREE HUNDRED THIRTY
THOUSAND CORALGABLES TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY TWO THOUSAND DAYTONABEACH
TWO HUNDRED FIVE THOUSAND TAMPA TWO HUNDRED FOUR THOUSAND
WETPALMBEACH ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND STPETERSBURG ONE

POSTAL TELEGRAPH - COMMERCIAL CABLES

CLARENCE H. MACKAY, PRESIDENT

36-04 - 38TH AVE.
 FLUSHING, N. Y.
 TEL. INDEPENDENCE 4364
 4367
 STANDARD TIME
 INDICATED ON THIS MESSAGE

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 TO ALL
 AMERICA



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HUNDRED FORTY TWO

N 55 2/13 FS MIAMIBEACH FLO CARL G FISHER LONGISLAND NY

TO SEND A MESSAGE
 CALL POSTAL TELEGRAPH
 INDEPENDENCE
 7. IF DESIRABLE
 WILL APPLY
 ON YOUR TELEPHONE

THOUSAND PENEACOLA SEVENTY FOUR THOUSAND ORLANDO TWENTY FIVE
 THOUSAND STAUGUSTINE TWENTY TWO THOUSAND

JOHN H LEVI.504PM

May 10, 1929.

Mr. John H. Levi,
Miami Beach, Florida.

Dear John:

On Wednesday we are going to pick up, bag and baggage, poll parrots, cats, dogs, all other wild fowl, domestic pets, Ford trucks, three legged chairs and old cracked pitchers, and move to Montauk. I never knew we had so much junk until I saw it stacked up on the porch. After we carefully pack and haul it to Montauk, the chances are we will take half of it out in the yard and burn it. We have a fairly good sized house at Montauk but I am satisfied we cannot get half of this junk inside the house, let alone arrange it so it would look proper. I think it might be a good idea to take one end of the laundry, fence it off and turn it into a second hand furniture store.

The weather here is wonderful; the air is just like wine and we are all feeling fine. We had a nice trip around Hatteras but we were only about ten hours ahead of a very stiff blow. We had only been in the harbor a few hours when it commenced to blow up and it certainly did blow stiff for a day and a half; I have never seen Long Island Sound as rough as it was the day after we arrived. We will be all set after Thursday and hope you and Joe can get up.

The new fish boat is finished and while it looks a little odd it is ideal for deep sea fishing and I think we can have a whole lot of fun, especially as soon as Charlie Thompson comes up.

Yours,

CGF:T

May 10, 1939.

Mr. John H. Levi,
Miami Beach, Florida.

Dear John:

Regarding Virginia Key: I think you should get the City to go on record as to what they really expect to do and that would give us some leverage to pull on in the future. I think it will be a good idea if the City will get 400 or 500 people in Miami to sign a petition (which they can do if they are honest in their intentions) and it will help wonderfully. I am sending you the following telegram:

IF THE COMMISSIONERS CAN GET FOUR OR FIVE HUNDRED REPUTABLE PEOPLE IN MIAMI TO SIGN PETITION THAT THEY WANT VIRGINIA KEY AND THE PROPERTY SOUTH AND THAT THEY WILL CONNECT SAME WITH CAUSEWAY AND RAILROAD TO VIRGINIA KEY AND PENINSULA TERMINAL PROPERTY AND THAT THEY WILL ASSIST AND PUSH THE CONSTRUCTION OF PANAMERICAN AIRPORT. WE WILL BE VERY GLAD TO LET THEM HAVE VIRGINIA KEY AND PUT NO STUMBLINGBLOCKS IN THEIR PROGRESS

We want to know that the people in Miami want this and will cooperate with us in getting railroad connection to Pen Terminal property as well as Virginia Key, that they will cooperate in getting large international airport in the bay, that they will help to get a causeway with boulevard approaches to Virginia Key, the Matheson property and the Deering Property on the south. If and when they will assure us this is their intention, we will be very glad to cooperate with them in allowing the County or the City of Miami to take over Virginia Key. I am sure we have the cooperation of Mr. Matheson and the Deering Property as well as the cooperation of Miami Beach.

Mr. John H. Levi,
May 10, 1929,
Page 2.

We only want a fair and equitable agreement for the general promotion of the entire County but we do not want to make any agreement that will allow hamstringing railroad connections to the Peninsular Terminal Property or change the location of the airports. These airports are one of the most vital things for the entire southern part of Florida. We could have easily had these airports finished two years ago if it had not been for the internal jealousies and foolish contentions between the interested parties.

If we attend to our own business and pave the way, Miami is destined to become the center of the transcontinental and South American air connections and outside of New York will be the greatest airport in the United States. We want to cooperate but we do not want to be put in the position of tying up railroad connections to deep water and we are not going to be put in this position and we will continue to fight to keep from getting into this position and we think we can do it successfully.

Yours,

CCFIT

Copies:
Hugh Matheson
Irving A. Collins
Fred Rand
Ross A. Reeder
Governor Cox
Mayor Sewell
James Deering Property

Collins

John H. Levi
Miami Beach
Florida

May 21, 1929.

Mr. Carl G. Fisher,
Port Washington,
Long Island, N.Y.

Dear Carl:

Your letter of May 13th received. This was the first time I knew you were going to the races; not being a mind reader, some things I have to be told. I would enjoy very much running up to Indianapolis again but I would rather wait until I have my work here in shape so I can leave and make a longer visit.

Jo has been going to the dentist every day. She has had quite a time with her mouth.

Suppose we will see you sometime this summer.

Don't know what to tell you about the political situation at Tallahassee. They are trying to do just what I figured they were going to do - take some of Miami Beach without a referendum by having a new act put thru the legislature and cancelling the old one. However, there are plenty others interested in the proposition who can probably head it off without me worrying myself to death. There are so many angles to it and so many different ideas and it lets the county proposition overshadow everything else that I never did consider that the county amounted to a damn one way or the other as compared with Miami trying to gobble up part of Miami Beach. To show them that we were willing to play fair with them we passed a resolution that we call an election if they could guarantee satisfactorily what they would do with Virginia Key in regards to improving it with railroads and in giving railroad easements across from it. We made the map that they presented as a part of the resolution and of course the map showed the railroad connections with easements to other property. If we called this election of the people of Miami Beach and let them vote on it, we knew that we could control the election and if they had

John H. Levi
Miami Beach
Florida

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Jo has been going to the dentist every day. She has had quite a time with her mouth.

Suppose we will see you sometime this summer.

Don't know what to tell you about the political situation at Tallahassee. They are trying to do just what I figured they were going to do - take some of Miami Beach without a referendum by having a new act put thru the legislature and cancelling the old one. However, there are plenty others interested in the proposition who can probably head it off without me worrying myself to death. There are so many angles to it and so many different ideas and it lets the county proposition overshadow everything else that I never did consider that the county amounted to a damn one way or the other as compared with Miami trying to gobble up part of Miami Beach. To show them that we were willing to play fair with them we passed a resolution that we call an election if they could guarantee satisfactorily what they would do with Virginia Key in regards to improving it with railroads and in giving railroad easements across from it. We made the map that they presented as a part of the resolution and of course the map showed the railroad connections with easements to other property. If we called this election of the people of Miami Beach and let them vote on it, we knew that we could control the election and if they had

John H. Levi
Miami Beach
Florida

Mr. Fisher, Page #2.

something worth while to offer we no doubt could help them get Virginia Key, but they had another meeting a few days afterwards - the city commission of Miami; Clif Reeder was not there, I understand he is in New York - and framed a bill to put thru the legislature to annex Virginia Key without a referendum. To do that they would have to change the whole state law, which they say they can do with Senator Watson and his son, who is attorney for Sewell. I don't believe they can get by with it. If they can show that much power, I think it is time for us to move to Russia.

I saw Charley Thompson yesterday and also Mr. Vanderbilt the day he came in. Mr. Vanderbilt seemed very much pleased with the place.

Jo stood out in the front yard on the bulkhead of Star Island yesterday and caught a three pound Pompano - the largest I ever saw.

Give our best to Margaret and the crowd.

Yours,



JHL/F

P.S. I mailed you a copy of a letter I wrote to Elmer Stout sometime ago and have'nt heard your comment on it. They still have Lucile's money tied up in Indianapolis. Two attorneys here just sent her a bill the other day for \$5,000.00 each; they were Mr. Stokes and Mr. Robineau. I will have to give them credit for doing a great deal more work for Lucile than the other two. I sat in all the conferences when Foley & Davis were here with Robineau & Stokes and it was just like two sets of attorneys fighting - Davis fighting for the bank's interest, Foley rather neutral, Robineau & Stokes fighting to get Lucile all they could for her, and they did raise it \$50,000.00 with Davis talking against it, saying that they did'nt think that they would stand for it.

John H. Levi
Miami Beach
Florida

Mr. Fisher, Page #2.

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Montauk.

May 25, 1929.

Mr. John H. Levi,
Miami Beach, Florida.

Dear John:

I have yours of the 21st. If some of the arguments you write would go into the papers in support of our contentions, they would be very good publicity. I am not sure just what stand Reader is taking to protect us, but I am satisfied the News feels we are not being treated fairly.

I thought I answered your letter to Elmer Stout; in fact, I was quite sure I inwardly commented that your attitude was o.k. and that I agreed with you.

Personally, I feel there is a very deep rooted plan to see that railroad connection to the other side is postponed indefinitely, and for many years the interests have been able to carry out this program. If Mr Warfield had lived, we would, of course, have had a very different fight with a lot of real power on our side. The new management seem to be afraid to move but they are just as anxious for deep water connections as they were.

I would like to hear from you occasionally as to how the fight is progressing. I read the newspaper clippings but you cannot always tell what is going on by the newspapers.

We have had a good deal of rain here but today is bright and cheerful. Irv Collins was up yesterday. I have ordered a new 66 foot boat with Diesels 300 H.P., each weighing 3800 pounds each, giving me a cruising speed of 30 miles per hour. I will have Ned send you the

Montauk

June 4, 1929.

Mr. John H. Levi,
Miami Beach, Florida.

Dear John:

Just received your telegraphic report on May Building Permits at Miami Beach. Certainly Miami Beach is to be congratulated and yourself particularly as the guiding genius and the throbbing dynamo of energy with unlimited patience, diplomacy, etc., etc. Be sure and send Ev Sewell a copy by mistake.

If Pete Chase has not already got this stuff in the mail, tell him to do so, but not to use telegrams, they are too expensive for this kind of advertising.

I was out at Indianapolis to the races and I am betting money Indianapolis is twenty degrees hotter than hell. It was terrible; I never have perspired as much in my life in the same length of time. They had enormous crowds -- bigger than ever, and as they had advanced the prices they probably made \$65,000 more than they ever made before. I made several bets, ten to one, it would not rain and stop the races, and won all of them. You should be glad you did not go. We got stuck in the jam and had to walk a mile and a half through muddy fields.

The weather here is beautiful and puts a lot of pep in me. Wish you and Joe would decide to come on soon. I am ordering a new 86-footer and told Purdy to send you a copy of the plans. I see they have turned Oherbino loose and I am glad of it. We are in the new house and we just love it. This will do you and Joe more good than any mountain climbing you ever saw.

Yours,

CGF:T

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CHAS. E. CLARK
SECRETARY

THE MIAMI OCEAN VIEW COMPANY
OWNERS OF STAR ISLAND

OFFICE FIFTH STREET AND ALTON ROAD
ENTRANCE TO CAUSEWAY

MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA

DIRECTORS

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June 11th, 1929.

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

Dear Carl:

Yours of the other day received.

I am glad too that I didn't go to Indianapolis.
We have had wonderful weather here but we have the mosquitoes now.

I received the blue print of the boat. I think it is a fine looking outfit. I think it is plenty large to do all the boating that you will ever want to do, as this thing of trying to make an ocean going vessel out of a yacht is rather risky business.

I see you and Irv Collins have broken out in print again at Miami Beach on something that you know nothing about and that is the family row at the school house. They tried to get the city council and me personally mixed up in it and I refused to have anything to do with it. It is just a family scrap. It is unfortunate that it happened as the town is about fifty fifty divided among the parents of the children and about fifty fifty divided among the school teachers, so why get mixed up in an affair like that and waste your ammunition on such small game and some day we will want you and Irv Collins to wire down a telegram that will really mean something on some constructive affair. You have got about fifty percent of the parents cussing you and Irv Collins out now, and I will bet neither one of you ever saw this fellow that you recommended and never heard of him. I don't know anything about the merits of the case and don't want to know, but I do know that to me it appears that the only way that they will ever have harmony since they have raised such a rumpus is to have a house cleaning and get some stranger there that no one knows. If they keep this fellow it is Hell, and if they let him go it is Hell.

Charley Leffler was in here yesterday. As you know, they figure on putting a filling station up in that unrestricted district at 62nd St. That is the street that comes over from Allion Island. The city passed an ordinance prohibiting filling stations in that district. Whether the ordinance will hold or not, I don't know. Leffler said that his company told him to go ahead and fight the case and he has a pretty good argument, as he and Mr. Mellon and Mr. Hartman, who is Vice-president of the Gulf Refining Company is building a big home on Indian Creek, picked this lot out over two years ago as being unrestricted and a suitable place for a high grade filling station. They paid \$50,000.00 for it, and bought

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Mr. Fisher,

Page #2.

it from a man by the name of Fitzpatrick on a resale. They sold a part of it for \$15,000.00; therefore they have \$35,000.00 in it, plus two and one-half years carrying charges and taxes. Now, they bought this in good faith and bought it for a certain purpose. It is just a question whether the court is going to say whether the city council can sit down and saw that you cannot use it for what you bought it for. I told Leffler to write me all the details and I am going to send you and Irv Collins a copy of it. Leffler don't want to have any fight with the Beach as they have too much interests over here, but he has his orders from headquarters. Your office just reports that this lot was sold on March 3, 1925 to Mary C. Murphy for \$8,250.00. It appears to me if this does not establish a precedent it would be a great deal better to in some way compromise with the Gulf Refining Company to see if you could persuade them to take another lot a little further north and pay them the difference as no doubt they paid a very big price for this particular spot.

Leffler is not very much in favor of this new Port bill. The way I feel about it is that anything that Watson puts thru he has something up his sleeve. They call it the Railroad bill because it favors the Florida East Coast. However, I don't think it will ever carry with a referendum so there is not much use worrying about it.

I am sending Irv a copy of this letter.

I don't know when we will get up north. Jo wants to take the kid to camp the last of this month and I may drive up to Carolina and gradually work our way north.

I am sending you and Irv a copy of June building permits which show a healthy situation regarding the type of buildings. Up until yesterday in June we have something like \$600,000.00, so I guess we will hit the million mark this month.

Yours,



JHL/F

BUILDING REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF MAY, 1929.

21	Residences	costing	\$ 592,500.00
1	Hotel	"	300,000.00
2	Stores	"	25,000.00
1	Office Building	"	5,000.00
1	Warehouse & Show Room	"	10,000.00
1	Work Room & Garage	"	4,000.00
4	Oil Tanks	"	12,000.00
1	Green House	"	3,000.00
1	Sign	"	250.00
30	Additions & Alterations	"	122,800.00
12	Repairs	"	10,650.00
			<hr/>
75	Permits		\$1,085,200.00
Fees -			\$1,015.00
May 1928 - Permits			\$331,485.00

J.J. FARREY

Building Inspector

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June 11th, 1929.

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

Dear Carl:

I am enclosing you a copy of a letter that Mr. Leffler just sent me regarding the filling station proposition. I notice he states that the restrictions had been left out for the purpose of allowing a small business section to grow up in that neighborhood. I understand there are some kind of restrictions that the company had in their deeds that there would be nothing of a nuisance character, but of course you could not prove a nuisance had been committed until he does commit it.

I wish you would instruct your office after this, or any employees to keep out of these civic affair scraps. The telephone has been buzzing all day where Kunschik is trying to get the city council or somebody to take sides with either one side or the other, I don't know which. I just called him up myself and told him that he stirred up enough trouble by getting you people to wire down here and to lay off of it.

Very truly yours,



JHL/F

Copy

GULF REFINING COMPANY
Miami, Fla.

June 10th, 1929.

Mr. John Levi, Chairman,
City Council of Miami Beach,
Miami Beach, Fla.

Dear John:

Following up our conversation of this morning with reference to our lot at Alton Road and 62nd St., Miami Beach, on which we are preparing to build an attractive service station.

This lot was bought from Mr. Fitzpatrick in 1925, and was situated in a block on which the restrictions had been left out for the purpose of allowing a small business section to grow up in that neighborhood.

We paid Mr. Fitzpatrick \$50,000.00 for this lot and the only restriction on the lot was that the lot should be sold as a whole and not subdivided.

The very fact that we paid \$50,000.00 for a lot in an undeveloped area years in advance of our wants was that we expected to hold it until it became useful for our purpose and that we would protect ourselves by having a lot in a very small unrestricted area. This alone gave this lot the apparent foolish value that we paid for it, and is the only reason we own it today. We could have bought lots for one-third the money in other locations in Miami Beach.

I think in all fairness to our Company due to the fact that this was an unrestricted area, confined to one block was public notice that the builders of Miami Beach expected that a business area would grow up in this one block on which would be built a filling station, drug store, a grocery store and the like, and I believe that exactly this will happen because this location is two miles from the business section of Miami Beach and will always be that far unless the restriction will be withdrawn on other property.

Very truly yours,

C.D. LEFFLER

CDD/MM

Montauk

June 14, 1929.

Mr. John H. Levi,
Miami Beach, Florida.

Dear John:

Thanks for yours of the 11th with copy of letter from Leffler. I still cannot understand why the oil company would pay \$50,000 for a lot in an undeveloped area when there were plenty lots on both sides of them with the same general restrictions and for sale at a less amount. It might be possible for the oil company to erect a station in such a way that it would not be a general nuisance. It could be done if they were so inclined, but I am sending your letter on to Irv to get his reaction.

You make me laugh when you talk about your telephone buzzing all day. If it has been buzzing all day, who told you it was buzzing; I know damn well you were not there to listen to it. There is no use trying to get people to stop mixing up in civic affairs; that is what they are supposed to do to keep a lot of civic officers on their job. The mosquitoes must be bothering you.

If this property has been sold to the various people for business purposes, I don't see how you can stop their building, unless the City creates a zoning ordinance, which of course, they do in many cities. Personally, I would be glad to cooperate in any way we can to relocate Mr. Leffler, but there is nothing doing so far as we are concerned in buying back this property at the figures he quotes. Will be glad to have any further suggestions from you.

Yours,

CGF:T

Montauk

June 13, 1929.

Mr. John H. Levi,
Miami Beach.

Dear John:

I have yours of the 11th, with your very sarcastic remarks about Irv and myself breaking into print. I don't think you know any more about the subject than I do. The principal thing that interested me was the fact that, as the information came to me, they wanted to get rid of this teacher and get some relative of some commissioner the job. Carson has had a lot of experience and has good recommendations. We don't know who the other guy is. At any rate, we think we ought to be able to handle our own business at the Beach to a certain extent without any interference from outsiders.

You say you don't know anything about the merits of the case and you don't want to know anything about the merits. If this is the situation, what the hell are you arguing about? I had just as soon see them clean out the whole damn works if they would get good men to replace them, but the chances are 99 times out of a 100 the man they would get would be worse and then we would be in a sweet fix.

I note your remarks about Leffler and his crowd. If they paid \$50,000 for this lot they are suckers, and you are a sucker to believe them. You never heard of an oil company paying any such price for property. We certainly would not think of paying the Gulf Refining Company any difference in a trade of a lot further north. They themselves should have more interest than to go into a residential district where they are not wanted. We already have too many filling stations at the

Mr. John H. Levin
June 13, 1939,
Page 2.

Beach and especially the north end of the Beach.

I received copy of Building Permits for May. It is wonderful. This information we are giving out of this office as much as we can all over this part of the country. Why don't you see the Chamber of Commerce and have this information printed on small envelope size slips that cost two or three dollars a thousand, and furnish these slips to the various people interested so that they can use them in their mail. I would like to have a few hundred of these slips to send out in our mail here and you have a lot of other people up north who are interested in the Beach and who have a very large amount of mail going out and they would be glad to distribute these little slips every so often for you.

In short, why the hell don't some of the rest of you down there get on the job and do a constructive piece of work instead of spending so much money in expensive booklets that only give you a flash? It is this continuous and startling and wonderful information being spread about the country that is gradually bringing back a lot of confidence in Florida, and particularly confidence in Miami Beach.

I imagine your mean disposition when you wrote this last letter was created from mosquitoes annoying you. We are having wonderful weather here; the finest spring weather we have ever had. Hope to see you and Joe soon.

Yours,

CGF:T

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June 24th, 1929.

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

Dear Carl:

Had a talk with Chase on the 'phone the other day - said he had been up to see you and how fine the place looked.

I don't know when we will get away; probably leave here on the 6th or 7th of July and drive up thru Asheville and Charleston, so I don't know when I will get to Montauk, altho I want to come up for a little visit sometime during the summer.

I think I told you we think we have sold a house on Star Island, the one that I am living in, for November delivery. We were supposed to get cash on it, but the fellow 'phoned me the other day from Columbus, Ohio, that he thought he could handle it if I took a \$30,000.00 mortgage back for one and two years, which I agreed to do, and if he does'nt change his mind again, the house will be his. The price was \$65,000.00.

We expect to get our money for Flamingo Park that we sold to the city, in probably sixty days. This will be \$300,000.00. We can pay a forty or fifty percent dividend. As we owe a little money, probably thirty or forty thousand dollars, I want to clean up everything and give the stockholders the balance.

What do you think about taking about \$50,000.00 and building - say two - \$25,000.00 houses on some of those west front lots on Star Island. I believe it is the only way we are going to get rid of those lots, as I don't like to put them on the market at a price below what we sold some lots to our other clients, as it does'nt seem hardly fair, but if we put a house on them, no one knows what we are asking for the lot and the house separately and we can lump it all together. We could put a \$25,000.00 house on a lot and sell the whole thing for \$45,000.00 or \$50,000.00 or less if we had to and still get a fair price for our lots. It may pay us to take some of the most undesirable lots facing the causeway and put \$20,000.00 houses on them.

Let me hear from you,

John H. Levi
Yours,
John H. Levi

Montauk

June 27, 1929.

Mr. John H. Levi,
Miami Beach,
Florida.

Dear John:

I have yours of the 24th.
I certainly agree with you that it is
best to put a couple houses on the lots
facing west. Go ahead and get them
ready.

I also want to call your
attention again to the fact that your
entrance way to Star Island is rotten
and always has been rotten. Why don't
you change this? I really don't know
what to suggest, but do something.

Yours,

CGF:T

P.S. What do you think of a swimming pool
and a few cabanas in your park at Star
Island? Even if nobody on the island ever
uses this pool it would be worth its cost to
sell the other property. You could charge the
upkeep and the filling to the residents, which
would be only a matter of \$100 apiece for the
season. You already have the pumps and you
also have good water. Swimming pools are
gaining in popularity every day.

Montauk

June 27, 1929.

Mr. John H. Levi,
Miami Beach,
Florida.

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Yours,

CGF:T

P.S. What do you think of a swimming pool
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uses this pool it would be worth its cost to
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upkeep and the filling to the residents, which
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CHAS. E. CLARK

Aug. 21, 1929.

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

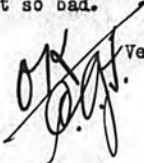
Dear Carl:-

I have been trying to get away from here. I may go tomorrow and stop off in Carolina for a week.

Lucille wants to build a house on Star Island. *OK*
We have some west front lots which we will probably hold a good many *CAF*
years before we sell them. She is satisfied with the west front and
wants to build about a \$25,000.00 or \$30,000.00 home. What do you
think about letting her have one for \$10,000.00 cash? It would prob-
ably help the Island to have one or two more homes on it. I would be
willing to take one facing the Causeway, which we do not seem to be
able to sell at all, for \$10,000.00 cash, and I would build a \$25,000.00
house on it. However, do not hesitate to comment on it. It just
occurred to me that the lots are so hard to sell, that it would help to
put up two more homes.

We are having nice weather, a little warm, but
the mosquitoes are not so bad.

Very truly yours,



John H. Levi

JHL-C

Montauk

August 24 , 1929.

Mr. John H. Levi,
Miami Beach, Florida.

Dear John:

I have yours of the 21st.
I approve of the sale to Lucille, and
also sale to yourself.

I think, however, I
would put this matter clearly up to
Jim and get his approval so that the
future will take care of itself.

Yours,

By

CGF:T

COPY

THE MIAMI OCEAN VIEW COMPANY
MIAMI BEACH, FLA.

September 18th, 1929.

Mrs. Jane Johnson,
East Williston, Long Island, N.Y.

Dear Jane:

Yours of August 29th received, also a long letter from Mrs. Bass, which I gave to Mr. Renshaw, the City Manager to answer.

Regarding the filling station - I am just wondering if you are familiar with the situation. You know the Fisher Company put on three blocks of unrestricted property in that neighborhood and they still stand as unrestricted property and were sold for that purpose. While the city did pass an ordinance prohibiting filling stations on the grounds that they might be a nuisance, yet I am not so sure that if they want to court they could make the city give them a permit. The Gulf Refining Company has a good argument. They bought this lot and paid \$30,000.00 for it, for the purpose of putting a filling station on it. The deed from the Fisher Company did not say that they could not put a filling station on it. The Gulf Refining Company offers to build any type of filling station suitable to either the city or any group of architects. It is a small affair. They do no tire changing, just merely a place to drive in and get gas. They could probably put a wall around it, with an entrance gate on either side and put flowers around it. My only thought is if they would let them have this one station there, probably no one else would attempt to put one up in the neighborhood, and you must remember there are still probably 25 or 30 more lots in these small business blocks that are unrestricted, and what are you going to do when some fellow comes along and wants to put up a garage for repairing cars, changing tires, etc. The city can't step in and say you can't do that or this. The only way we get by the filling station situation was by saying it was dangerous to keep gasoline up in that neighborhood.

I just thought that I would drop you this note and let you and Mrs. Bass think it over, whether it would be better to have a nice little filling station from a company that can afford to build a nice one rather than have someone come in and take the bull by the horns and build a cheap filling station with a garage in connection.

It is possible this matter can be handled when the zoning committee gets in action, but before zoning new territory the lot owners in that neighborhood have a right to vote on it. In other words, if we should desire to have these three business blocks turned back to residence blocks, every lot owner has a right to vote on it, and if they

COPY

THE MIAMI OCEAN VIEW COMPANY
MIAMI BEACH, FLA.

Mrs. Jane Johnson,

Page #2.

all care to put it back to residence they would have to have a vote of at least 80% of the property owners; in other words the property owner has something to say - the city just can't sit down and say you bought that lot for an apartment and you can't put an apartment on it.

Mr. Leffler, Manager of the Gulf Refining Company states that they only use college boys in connection with their filling stations and he said there would be three college graduates to take care of this station, so I suggested that he write all you women who were kicking about this station that there would be three good looking college graduates staying up there all the time and maybe you would withdraw your objection.

I hope to get up to Long Island to see Carl before the season is over and I want to see Jim Snowden and I will let you know when I am up there and maybe we can drive up to see Jim Snowden, as I don't know where he lives.

Best regards,

Very truly yours,

John H. Levi

Copy to:

Mr. C.G. Fisher, ✓
Mr. C.D. Leffler,

JHL/P

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its character is indicated by a symbol in the check or in the address.

BY DIRECT WIRE FROM
**WESTERN
 UNION**

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

BLUE	Day Letter
NITE	Night Message
NL	Night Letter
LCO	Deferred
CLT	Cable Letter
WLT	Week End Letter

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

13NC 47 DL XU

MIAMI BEACH FLO 948AM SEPT 14 1929

CARL G FISHER

MONTAUK NY

EXPECT TO GET MONEY MONDAY OR TUESDAY STOP ROMFH SAYS IF YOU LEAVE
 THE BONDS HERE HE CAN PROBABLY DISPOSE OF THEM BETWEEN NINETY FIVE
 AND NINETY SEVEN OTHERWISE WILL SEND BONDS UP TO YOU ALONG WITH
 THE CASH DIVIDEND I SUGGEST YOU LEAVE THEM HERE THINK WE CAN
 DISPOSE OF THEM TO BETTER ADVANTAGE THAN YOU

THE MIAMI OCEAN VIEW CO

1223PM

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

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Received at

SEPTEMBER 16, 1929.

THE MIAMI OCEAN VIEW COMPANY. MIAMI BEACH. FLORIDA.

GIVE BONDS TO ROMFH SO HE CAN DISPOSE OF THEM

WHEN HE CONSIDERS MOST ADVANTAGEOUS MARKET

CARL G. FISHER.

RHT:T

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its character is indicated by a symbol in the check or in the address.

BY DIRECT WIRE FROM

WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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7NC 17

MIAMI BEACH FLO 1037AM EPT 16 1929.

CARL G FISHER

MONTAUK NY

DEPOSITING TO YOUR CREDIT MIAMIBEACH FIRST NATIONAL BANK TODAY

ACCOUNT DIVIDEND THIRTY FIVE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS

JOHN H LEVI

1205PM

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

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NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at

SEPTEMBER 16, 1929.
MIAMI BEACH FLORIDA.

CARL G. FISHER. MONTAUK. NEW YORK.

DEPOSITING TO YOUR CREDIT MIAMI BEACH FIRST NATIONAL BANK
TODAY ACCOUNT DIVIDEND \$35,400.

JOHN H. LEVI. ✓

OFFICERS
JOHN H. LEVI
PRES. AND TREAS.
FRANK B. SHUTTS
VICE-PRESIDENT
CHAS. E. CLARK
SECRETARY

THE MIAMI OCEAN VIEW COMPANY
OWNERS OF STAR ISLAND

OFFICE FIFTH STREET AND ALTON ROAD
ENTRANCE TO CAUSEWAY
MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA

DIRECTORS
JAMES H. SNOWDEN
JOHN H. LEVI
CARL G. FISHER
HENRY McSWEENEY
FRANK B. SHUTTS
V. H. EHRHART
CHAS. E. CLARK

September 16th, 1929.

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

Dear Carl:

office the dividend check.

I just turned over to your

I received your telegram regarding the bonds. No doubt there is better market for Miami Beach bonds here than up north. I think Mr. Romfh can dispose of them to better advantage than some outsider. We are writing all the dividend checks today altho the bonds wont be here for two or three days. We got our money from the city, which was \$175,000.00 cash and \$125,000.00 in bonds.

I figure the company has got just about its capital stock left. Of course, depending on the real estate market it may be that it will amount to more than \$600,000.00, which is the capital stock. The total amount of dividends paid by this company to date is 415%, including this 50%. In cash this amounts to \$2,356,425.00.

I have been trying to get up to see you. I was surprised to hear that Earl and Frankie had gone to Craig Healing Springs. I would like to go there and spend a week.

Cliff Reeder is going up the last of this week. He wants me to go up at the same time. I understand he is tied up with Curtis now, and I suppose you know that Mr. Baker, the Red Cross man has joined the Curtis outfit. I don't know of anyone that has had more experience than Baker in digging up money. Why didn't we hire him.

I may show up sometime the first part of next week. However, you couldn't beat this climate here.

Yours,

John

September 19, 1929.

Mr. John H. Levi,
Miami Beach, Florida.

Dear John:

I have yours of the 16th. Am glad the deal is closed up.

I wish you would get up here for a while. We are having some beautiful weather and I think the fresh air will do you a lot of good. It certainly revived Owen and Ann; they were both about all in when they got here as both of them had been in the hospital for some weeks. Earl felt better after he had been up here for a week, but he was nervous and restless to get back south.

It looks like we have sold the Treiber Diesel Engine company, and if all of the stockholders will agree, the transaction will be closed up on the first. One stockholder does not want to sell; but fortunately it is only one and maybe we can straighten the matter out.

Yours,

CGF:T

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NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at

SEPTEMBER 30, 1929.

MIAMI OCEAN VIEW COMPANY. MIAMI BEACH FLORIDA.

WILL BE AT FISHER OFFICE PORT WASHINGTON THIS AFTERNOON
 WIREME THERE IS THERE MUCH DAMAGE TO ANY OF OUR PROPERTY
 HOW IS STAR ISLAND. START FORWARDING MY MAIL TODAY TO
 PENNSYLVANIA HOTEL WILL BE THERE TWO OR THREE DAYS.
 SNOWDEN DOES NOT KNOW I AM UP HERE HE THINKS I HAVE GONE
 I ATTENDED TO ALL THE BUSINESS I HAD TO ~~ATTEND~~ WITH HIM
 LAST WEEK. HAVE DAVE GO AND LOOK OVER MRS. MCGILLS HOUSE
 AND DO ANY URGENT REPAIRS NECESSARY CAUSED BY STORM

JOHN H. LEVI.

JHL:T

SEND COLLECT.

May 3, 1930.

Mr. John H. Levi,
Miami Beach, Florida.

Dear John:

I have instructed Bob today to get out a memorandum for \$10,000.00 of Montauk stock for you as a gift.

As you undoubtedly know, there is no "water" in Montauk stock. This stock cost one hundred cents on the dollar and when it commences to make good it should make very good.

I do this in appreciation of assistance that you have given in the past.

Yours,

GGF:T

P.S. Certificate will be mailed to you from Montauk next week.

Levi

May 16, 1930

Mr. John H. Levi,
c/o Miami Ocean View Co.,
Miami Beach, Florida.

Dear Sir:

I attach this to and hand you herewith Voting Trust Certificate No. 18 representing one thousand shares (\$10,000.00) of Class B stock of the MONTAUK BEACH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, organized under the laws of the State of Florida, on the express agreement, pursuant to which it is presented to you and which is the substantial consideration for such presentation, that, without the consent of myself, or my trustees, or Montauk Beach Development Corporation, or its successors, for a period of five years from the date hereof, you will not sell or offer it or any part of it for sale, or loan or offer it or any part of it on loan, you will not pledge it or any part of it, or put up the whole or any part of it as collateral security for a loan or obligation, and will vote said stock in accordance with my written instructions and will at my option give and grant to me or to such other person or persons as I may in writing designate, a proxy or proxies to vote said stock at all stockholders' meetings; each and all of which stipulations shall be binding on the heirs, legal representatives, successors and/or assigns of the parties hereto.

In case of your death before the expiration of said period, if it is desired to sell said stock, then it shall be offered at its market value, or a reasonable value, first to me, my legal representatives or trustees and, second, to the Montauk Beach Development Corporation, or its management, successors or assigns, before it is offered to any other; but this is not intended and shall not in any way waive or modify the binding force hereof on heirs, legal representatives, successors and/or assigns.

Kindly sign your acceptance of this in duplicate and oblige.

Very truly yours,

Carl G. Fisher.

I accept the above mentioned stock on the terms, conditions, limitations and agreements above set forth and dated _____.

John H. Levi

OFFICERS
JOHN H. LEVI, PRES. AND TREAS.
FRANK B. SHUTTS, VICE-PRES.
FRANK B. SHUTTS, SECRETARY

THE MIAMI OCEAN VIEW COMPANY
OWNERS OF STAR ISLAND

OFFICE FIFTH STREET AND ALTON ROAD
ENTRANCE TO CAUSEWAY

MIAMI BEACH, FLA.

John Levi
DIRECTORS
JAMES H. SNOWDEN
JOHN H. LEVI
CARL G. FISHER
HENRY MCBWENEY
FRANK B. SHUTTS
JAMES A. ALLISON
Y. H. BIRNHART

Chas. E. Clark

June 15, 1950.

Mr. James H. Snowden,
598 Madison Ave.,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Snowden:-

I suppose you have heard of our trouble in the Miami area - the Bank of Bay Biscayne and its subsidiaries, consisting of three or four smaller banks, closed their doors last Wednesday. That is probably the biggest calamity that has happened to South Florida. The Bank of Bay Biscayne alone had about 15,000 depositors. Their deposits a few months ago was \$16,000,000.00 and I understand that when they closed they had about \$12,000,000.00. This is going to materially affect business for some time to come. It will, no doubt, affect building projects. The First National in Miami and the Miami Beach First National had quite a run, but the run is all over, and these two banks are in very good shape.

The Miami Ocean View Co. owes the Miami Beach First National \$25,000.00. We owe \$21,000.00 on our Income Tax, which is payable in three instalments, as follows, June 15, Sept. 15 and Dec. 15, 1950. The first \$7,000.00 instalment is due in a couple of days. We owe \$6,000.00 State & Co. taxes and have \$11,000.00 left of the \$25,000.00 we borrowed. Of course, all this deficit is due to our paying a 50% dividend, anticipating that we would have several sales last winter but which did not materialize.

I sold my two Indian Creek lots, Nos. 29 and 30, for \$100,000.00, getting \$40,000.00 cash and a \$60,000.00 note due in one year. After paying \$5,000.00 commission it leaves me \$55,000.00. Have you any objection to my loaning the Miami Ocean View Co. \$25,000.00 at 6%? On the \$25,000.00 we now owe the Miami Beach First National Bank they are charging us 6%. They will probably want a payment on this note and we could spare them \$10,000.00 out of the \$25,000.00, and \$15,000.00 could run the Ocean View Co. for some time.

I am sending Mr. Birnhart and Mr. Fisher copies of this letter, and if it is agreeable to you all I will loan the Company this money, or I am receptive to any other suggestion that might prove beneficial or a better deal than this.

TREAS.
SHUTTS
RESIDENT
E. CLARK
SECRETARY

THE MIAMI OCEAN VIEW COMPANY
OWNERS OF STAR ISLAND

OFFICE FIFTH STREET AND ALTON ROAD

ENTRANCE TO CAUSEWAY

MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA

DIRECTORS
JAMES H. SNOWDEN
JOHN H. LEVI
CARL G. FISHER
HENRY McSWEENEY
FRANK B. SHUTTS
V. H. EHRHART

Mr. James H. Snowden - #2

I have been trying to get some one interested in the corner where our office building is, but I do not look for any success until probably next winter as no one seems to be interested at the present time.

Very truly yours,

THE MIAMI OCEAN VIEW COMPANY

John H. Levi
President.

JHL-C

CC to V. H. Ehrhart
CC to Carl G. Fisher ✓

June 17, 1930.

Mr. John H. Levi,
Miami Ocean View Company,
Miami Beach, Florida.

Dear John:

I have copy of your letter to Snowden
of June 13th.

Of course, I think it is very liberal
of you to loan the company money at six
per cent, when nearly everybody is forced
to pay eight per cent and even more.

It is my general opinion that we would
do better with a part of this money to
build that house on Indian Creek and let
the banks renew their loans. However,
this is up to you.

Yours,

CGF:T

June 26th, 1930.

Mr. Carl G. Fisher,
Montauk, Long Island.

Dear Carl:

We had a tax meeting at the Miami Beach city council yesterday and adjourned it for a week as there were so many complaints and we are trying to iron them out. There are a class of people at Miami Beach that insist on the Golf links being put on at much larger figures, also the Polo Fields and the water front property along the Bay, including the Flamingo and Nautilus. The property from the Roney to the Pancoast Hotel is considered the most valuable property on the Beach. These fellows want a fortune for their lots but they make an awful kick because they have had their taxes raised. Roney has turned out to be the biggest kicker on the Beach about everything. We have to raise all the property from Lincoln Road north as the property at the Sound end of the Beach is very inactive and the lots are selling anywhere from \$2,500.00 to \$4,000.00, therefore Pine Tree Drive and the Ocean and Bay front, which are more or less active had to stand for a raise. Judge Ansberry and Judge O'Farrell have been employed by some kickers to see if they cannot knock our tax roll out.

We got a pretty good break in the election. Railey beat Watson for County Commissioner by the support we gave him at the Beach. In other words, the Beach is responsible for his election, in which he admits and is very grateful for. Peters was beaten in the north end so if Railey and Crandon, who is already on the County Commission, and I consider a good man, and the new man at the north end will stick together, they will control county affairs and I am sure give the Beach a better break.

I don't think it is good policy for me to consider building a house on Allison Island at the present time, at least as long as there is so much disturbance over the tax rolls. We have tried to keep Allison Island down very low in assessments, which I think is right until things are more active, but a great many people think it should be put on a great deal higher valuation, and it would put me in a very embarrassing position sitting on the Council.

I don't know when we will get north as we are busy on the tax rolls and this zoning proposition -- I hope in sight of a month. It is raining again and we have a few mosquitoes, but the weather has been very nice. Building permits at the Beach will run over one half million dollars this month.

Yours,

John H. Levi.

JHL/F

John H. Levi
Miami Beach
Florida

June 26th, 1930.

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

Dear Carl:

Yours of the 17th received.

We had a tax meeting at the Miami Beach city council yesterday and adjourned it for a week as there were so many complaints and we are trying to iron them out. There are a class of people at Miami Beach that insist on the Golf links being put on at much larger figures, also the Polo Fields and the water front property along the Bay, including the Flamingo and Nautilus. The property from the Roney to the Pancoast Hotel is considered the most valuable property on the Beach. Those fellows want a fortune for their lots but they make an awful kick because they have had their taxes raised. Roney has turned out to be the biggest kicker on the Beach about everything. We have to raise all the property from Lincoln Road north as the property at the South end of the Beach is very inactive and the lots are selling anywhere from \$2,500.00 to \$4,000.00, therefore Pine Tree Drive and the Ocean and Bay front, which are more or less active had to stand for a raise. Judge Ansberry and Judge O'Farrell have been employed by some kickers to see if they cannot knock our tax roll out.

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John H. Levi
Miami Beach
Florida

Mr. Fisher,

Page #2.

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I don't know when we will get north as we are busy on the tax rolls and this zoning proposition - I hope in sight of a month.

It is raining again and we have a few mosquitoes, but the weather has been very nice.

Building permits at the Beach will run over one half million dollars this month.

Yours,

John H. Levi

JHL/F

June 30, 1935.

Mr. John H. Levi,
Miami Beach, Florida.

Dear John:

I have yours of the 26th. If it is necessary to raise the taxes north of Lincoln Road, I would do so. I think, however, that any community that raises the taxes on a golf course where the golf course is for the general good of the entire community, is fundamentally wrong, and the same with the polo fields. Hundreds of thousands of dollars are spent on the Beach by polo players and as you know their income will hardly pay for keeping order on the ground. While the golf courses did very well during this last season, considerable has to be spent through the year to take care of them, and the rest of the property on the Beach would not be worth half so much money as they are at the present time if it was not for the golf courses.

Old man Ansberry, of course, is a meddler and generally no good. I am not sure that he can do anything down there but raise considerable trouble. If it is possible, I would beat him to it.

Note that the building schedules at the Beach are, under the circumstances, very remarkable. I think the best advertising the Chamber of Commerce could do would be to get out a list of these building permits every thirty days and furnish them to the various people on the Beach to enclose in their letters. We can use quite a number here to good advantage. This will only cost the Chamber of Commerce the printing bills.

Business conditions remain very dull in the north, but everybody seems to feel that after the general clean-up on stocks is finished we will have better real estate business in this country.

I think your idea on Allison Island is o.k.
Hope to see you and Jo soon.

Yours,

CGF:T

Mr. John H. Levi,
June 30, 1930,
Page 2.

Bob has just called my attention to a clipping in The Miami Beach Sun, entitled "A Few Figures." This states that during the month of May Miami Beach started more new buildings than were started in any one of twenty states.

This item is of enormous value to Miami Beach and to the State of Florida and is also a great incentive to the average buyer of real estate at Montauk, or in fact most any place where they see a community coming ahead as fast as the Beach. But particularly this is a great advantage to the Beach and I think the Chamber of Commerce should send these out by the thousand, but in the mail of individuals. We can use several hundred here. However, in a hurry to get these in the mail, we are going to have a few printed at East Hampton.

C. G. F.

CGF:T

TIME

THE WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE



Eisenstoedt-Pix

MAYOR OF MIAMI BEACH

He summoned Founder Fisher to a pretty little town.

(National Affairs)

So we headed the MERCURY for Sun Valley!



"Weather clearing—skiing good," the paper said. "Four feet of snow at Sun Valley." Six of us went, so we drove my big Mercury 8. The way that car's lines widen out means just the difference between crowding and comfort. You'd be surprised how many miles we made a day—I could drive that car 500 and never know it! You don't really *drive* the Mercury—you *guide* it!



Mountain driving in winter is something! Ruttled snow underfoot, hairpin turns—and plenty cold—a great test for the Mercury and that smooth, quiet 95-hp V-type engine. In fact, with the new Controlled Ventilation and the car's way of hugging the road, it was as easy as watching a travelog. We did 200 mountain miles the last day, and had a ski before dinner!



A long trip emphasizes Mercury 8 advantages—and explains this car's sensational success.

When you reach the end of a day's drive relaxed and unwearied—you'll thank the Mercury's easy wheel, its extra-wide seats, and the restful comfort of its stabilized, soundproofed construction. The high power-to-weight ratio and big hydraulic brakes justify your confidence. And you're sure to approve the Mercury's outstanding feature: real ECONOMY (up to 20 miles per gallon of gasoline, say owners!).

Mercury 8

Built by the Ford Motor Company—distributed by Mercury, Lincoln-Zephyr and Ford dealers



bargo against Japan;* 2) a growing group, underwritten by Secretary Morgenthau and the Export-Import Bank, which favored the roundabout maneuver of giving China a \$20,000,000 credit (China had asked for \$75,000,000); and 3) a sudden cloud of alarmists, frightened mainly by Columnist Walter Lippmann, who thought the risk of war was growing by the minute, but that the U. S. should hopefully do nothing.

Last week the U. S. State Department apparently favored doing nothing about Japan. But it looked as if this might be the surest way of all to bring on war. Having threatened action, a sudden backing down would give the Japanese the impression that the U. S. dares not fight in two oceans. That impression, plus a few more U. S. insults and misunderstandings—a few more arrogant U. S. cheeks slapping Japanese sentries' palms, a few more compounds impudently getting in the way of Japanese bombs—might mean that Japanese battleships as well as beetles would plague the U. S.

This eventuality was grimly anticipated by the *New York Daily News* last week. Said a *News* editorial: the U. S. must fight Japan some day; it should fight her off its own shores; it should therefore not wait for the inevitable provocations that will make the U. S. attack Japan, but should clamp down on Japan in every way—embargo first—and let her fleet attack the U. S. fleet near its bases.

The one thing which most certainly would insure U. S.-Japanese peace is also the one thing which Japan most wants: liquidation of the war in China. Last week Pope Pius sent Emperor Hirohito a telegram on the Empire's 2,600th anniversary in which he said: "We ask God that you may cease hostilities and that through Divine aid the Japanese people and their sovereigns may attain greater glory and happy years." But the telegram had no effect. Once again an Occidental had dropped a brick, for in Japan, Hirohito is God—God No. 124 in direct succession.

THE CONGRESS

Fish Fry

Lots of people have said sharp things about the Dies Committee on Un-American Activities. Few have been more vitriolic than goat-bearded William Dudley Pelley, leader of The Silvershirt Legion of America. Last June, one of the Committee's investigators, Robert B. Barker, investigated his nation-saving activities and reported back that Pelley was just the Committee's dish. With its sizzling frying pan all ready for Pelley, the Committee tossed out a line and hook to catch him. But Mr. Pelley dived for deeper water, and disappeared.

As other fish were caught and dropped

* Senator Vandenberg, who last July cleared the way for an embargo by initiating abrogation of the 1911 Trade Treaty, has since backed down, in the interests of isolation (TIME, Feb. 12).

into the pan to splutter, the Committee's appetite for Mr. Pelley waned. Then, three weeks ago, Representative Frank Hook of Michigan inserted into the *Congressional Record* certain letters which seemed to show that Chairman Martin Dies was friendly to the Silvershirts. Alleged author of the letters: Leader Pelley. Congressman Hook, opposed to continuation of the Dies Com-



SILVERSHIRT PELLEY
Out of the frying pan into the clink.

mittee, waved this evidence under the nose of Congress. Almost immediately the letters were branded as fake. David Mayne, Pelley agent in Washington, admitted forging them. Thereupon Mr. Hook withdrew his charges, grudgingly apologized. The affair reminded everybody of the question: Where was William Pelley? Particularly, Committeeman Jerry Voorhis wanted to know. He had long been anxious to question Pelley. Presto! Mr. Pelley leaped into view, right in the Committee's midst.

How come? "None of those letters were written by me, composed by me, or signed by me," declared he, wagging his goatee, smiling with his teeth. "I am giving Martin Dies an absolutely clean bill of health."

That gave the Committee something to think about. Flustered, they postponed their questioning until next day. Then, having stoked the fire and readied the frying pan, in they popped Mr. Pelley. But the hotter the fire, the more Mr. Pelley seemed to enjoy it.

Quizzed on his fascistic Silvershirts, he boasted that his Legion had 25,000 members. Among his supporters he named John Richard Brinkley of Del Rio, Tex., goat-eared doctor who has made a fortune selling goat glands to impotent but hopeful men. Doc Brinkley lent him \$5,000, said Mr. Pelley. His Legion, founded in 1933, "began propagandizing against the same things that this [the Dies] committee set out to expose," he confided smoothly, while the Committee glared and squirmed.

Shushing irate young Congressman Voorhis, Acting Chairman Joe Starnes tried to pin the witness down. Said he: "You spoke approvingly of Hitler and his manner of control in Germany. Does your organization foster a program similar to that followed in Germany?"

"I feel exactly as the Nazi Party in Germany felt regarding the Jewish element in our country. . . ."

"Are you anti-Semitic?"

"I call myself very much so," replied Mr. Pelley. "I say very freely that I am anti-Semitic."

"If the Silvershirts had achieved their aim would you have become the leader of the Government?"

"Probably."

"And would you then have put into effect Hitler's policy towards the Jews?"

"I probably would, sir," answered Mr. Pelley.

"If the Dies Committee continues its investigation then would the Silvershirts fold up?" demanded Representative Thomas of New Jersey.

"Yes, sir," replied Mr. Pelley, "and with my blessing . . . you've gone ahead and done a good job. If the Dies Committee goes ahead my work is done."

Acting Chairman Starnes, banging his gavel, choked: "We don't want this record cluttered up either with praise or condemnation," finally released the Silvershirt leader with the curt statement: "The Committee is through with you."

Promptly a Washington, D. C. police sergeant arrested Mr. Pelley. Convicted in 1935 for transgressing North Carolina's "blue sky" security law, he was charged with violating his parole. After weekend-long in the clink, Mr. Pelley was released under a \$2,500 bond, determined to fight extradition. The Dies Committee, wiping its collective brow, was glad to hear that Mr. Pelley had been removed.

"Aid" to the Finns

U. S. shippers are not in business for their health. Finland is fighting for its life; some observers think, for more lives than its own. Last week U. S. shippers were sent to Finland's mortal enemy, Soviet Russia, copper, wheat, oil, other materials. They indicated that shipments would continue so long as the State Department allows (see p. 69). Meanwhile, last week, the Congress of the U. S. tepidly gestured its sympathy for beleaguered Finland.

A resolution passed by the Senate called upon the Securities and Exchange Commission to expedite consideration of any bonds which the Finnish Government wanted to issue in the U. S.

Nearer actual aid, but still cautiously in the air was the Brown Bill, authorizing an increase in the Export-Import Bank's loan capital of \$100,000,000, and making possible an additional \$20,000,000 credit to Finland. The bill was favorably reported by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee

last week, had the approval even of such isolationists as Senators Vandenberg and Hiram Johnson, seemed destined to pass. Debatable was the bill's practical or potential value to the Finns. The money would have to be spent in the U. S., and for non-military products. And final sanctioning of the credit would be up to hard-headed Jesse Jones, Federal Loan Administrator, who is reported to have said that he did not think the Finns, who have already borrowed \$10,000,000, were a good risk for more than an additional \$10,000,000.

FLORIDA

Pleasure Dome

(See Cover)

"There are no boll weevils in the tourist crop," the sages say in Florida. Last week Florida was harvesting its biggest crop of tourists. In limousines and trailers, by air and by boat and railway (at lowest fares ever), they spread through all the long reach from Jacksonville on the north to Key West in the south (see map). They went to fish for sail, marlin, tarpon on both coasts; to peer at fish on display at Marineland and Silver Springs; to watch their favorite ballplayers at Orlando, Clearwater, Sarasota; to hear the Bok Carillon at Lake Wales; to see Seminoles and alligators and flamingos and orange trees; to have fun.

They settled at St. Petersburg (up 15% over 1938-39); at snooty Palm Beach and plebeian West Palm Beach (up 20%); at Fort Lauderdale, "fastest growing city in the fastest growing county in Florida," (up 20%); at Daytona Beach, Key West, St. Augustine, Tampa (up 20%). And by uncounted thousands they were diffused in trailer camps, autocamps, hamlets, roadside inns. By April 1, when the winter season wanes and the smaller summer crop begins to bud, the calculators figure that upwards of 3,000,000 will have come and departed, left \$365,000,000 in Florida pockets.*

The place to see the tourist crop at its verdant best and worst was along a patch of the Atlantic coastline, 350 miles down from the Georgia border, 145 miles up from the southernmost Florida Key. There lies the "Miami area."

Seen from the air, this 90-square-mile patch looks like one sprawling bailiwick, set in the flat expanses of citrus groves, bean and pepper and tomato fields that extend southward to the swampy Everglades. Actually it is divided into three parts. There are 1) the residential suburbs: Hialeah, Coral Gables, Coconut Grove, South Miami (where many a home-owner last week had moved into his garage-apartment, rented his house for the winter season); 2) the city of Miami, lovely in seg-

ments but raw-ugly in sum, with its own tolerant government and its flamboyant, perennial "reform" Mayor E. G. Sewell; 3) Miami Beach, with its own City Council, its Mayor John Hale Levi. The city of Miami is a city, much like other booming U. S. towns; Miami Beach is a unique U. S. phenomenon.

In Mayor Sewell's thriving city of Miami last week:

► Slack-chinned, dull-eyed Crackers from the back country thronged the narrow streets, along with vacationers in shorts and halters, blue-red-yellow slacks, astrol-



Steve Hannagan, the late Carl Fisher
Mr. Fisher will be the only one.

ogers, hackies, pimps, and the solid, trading, homeliving folk of the city.

► The *News* (which at the height of the Florida Boom led all U. S. newspapers in advertising lineage) headlined G-Man John Edgar Hoover, ineffectively sounding off against the local toleration of gamblers, gangsters, brothels; and Governor Fred Cone in Tallahassee, effectively commanding Miami politicians to close down the gaming.

► At Hialeah, three dog-tracks and one jai-alai (Cuban handball) fronton in the Miami gambling area, betters on a single "poor Monday" last week wagered \$800,000; since the winter season opened had poured in a record \$25,000,000 (including the takes at both Hialeah and Tropical Park horsetracks).

► At wondrous Dinner Key, just south of the city, Pan American's great-winged *Clippers* cleared 2,509 passengers between the U. S., Cuba and the near Indies, the Southern Hemisphere (and men now dream of a great mart at Miami, for the goods and peoples of the western world).

► Rain fell one morning, and women wore

light topcoats that night. Over was Florida's longest cold spell on record. How many sunbirds the freeze and its chill, cloudy aftermath had kept or driven away was unknown. Florida's winter adding machines are not geared to subtract.

One of Miami's claims to fame is that it is the city near Miami Beach.

Town in the Sky. There are two Miami Beaches. Both of them front, benefit, out-dazzle Miami across blue Biscayne Bay. One is geographic; a long (10-mile), low spit between the Bay and the Atlantic. The other is the town of Miami Beach, which is like no other town in the U. S., or in the world:

► 1,600 acres of land which a scant 25 years ago was mangrove tangle, bare sand, avocado patches.

► 2,800 acres dredged from the bottom of Biscayne Bay, dumped onto the natural core and into 15 fabricated isles.

► Winding through and between the mother key and the islands, 20 miles of inland waterway, 35.2 miles of beach and bayfront; 110 miles of palm-lined street and lane.

It is Florida's booming, catholic pleasure dome, looming low and broad against the Atlantic sky. Coconut and royal palms, hibiscus, croton, flame vines, night-blooming jasmine shroud mile upon serpentine mile of streets and lanes and waterways. On Lincoln Road, where the mangrove and sand once sold for 75¢ an acre, the play world shops at swank branches of De Pinna's, Hattie Carnegie's, Saks-Fifth Avenue, and property is quoted at \$1,000 a front-foot. The creamy, orange, blue and yellow palaces, villas, cottages are of concrete blocks beneath their stucco. (To guard against "the next hurricane"). Their open patios, loggias, halls and broad window spaces are designed for life and ease in the sun; on their roofs, the sun is put to work, heating water in glassed reflectors. Northward by the Atlantic is the Surf Club, where the cabanas trace an S along the beach, and a Philadelphia socialite named Alfred Iko Barton teaches the rich how to be lavish. By the County Causeway over the Bay, and in the Flamingo Hotel's blue basin, are the yachts and cruisers: *Nakhoda*, *Pleides*, *Marmot*, *Virago* (lately chartered by J. P. Morgan), many another. Just beyond the city line of Miami Beach (where gambling is taboo), in separately incorporated Surfside, is the Brook Club, where gambling is an elegant business. At the extreme, northerly end of the spit is a subdivision called Golden Beach where Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt last week rented the Ross W. Hudson's house for occupancy April 18.

Along with the socialites (the William Kissam Vanderbilts arrived last week), there are many, many more of spectacular fortune (oil, hats, machinery, Coca-Cola, motors, patent medicine) whose yachts and homes adorn the Beach. There is "the mob" from Hollywood and

* All totals are guesstimates; Florida does not know its tourist arithmetic. But specific indices, airline travel, hotel rentals, garbage collections show the seasonal total up 25-30%.



Broadway (Al Jolson, Walter Winchell, Ben Bernie, *et al.*, usually at the garish, \$8-\$75 a day Roney Plaza); or a few, like Columnist-Author Damon Runyon, in their own winter villas; and some, like the Manhattan George ("Romeo & Juliet") Lowthers (TIME, Nov. 27), who last week were swapping their tabloid fame for a free honeymoon at the Floridan Hotel.

Hundreds are well-to-do rather than rich, spending a month's income for two weeks, a month, a winter by the sea. (More of these than of any other group

buy \$25-\$50,000 houses, retire the year round to Miami Beach.)

Swarming thousands of thrifty folk stretch a year's savings over two weeks in "South Beach," where there are many small, relatively cheap (\$5-\$7) hotels, the dog-track, drug-store lunch counters, the only public beach space. Collectively they bring millions in cash to Miami Beach. Their tide is spreading northward and past 15th Street, where (at Alton Road) an apartment-hotel sign is a symbolic outpost. The sign: GENTILES.

Son of the Beach. Near Miami, 64 years ago, when the county had less than 800 residents, lived a Republican notary called the Duke of Dade. He was able, it is said, to conjure up 350 Republican votes for Hayes, tip the Florida electoral balance against Tilden, and thus assist in robbing the Democrats of the 1876 Presidential election. Since then the political morals of Miami and environs have not materially improved. But Mayor John Hale Levi of Miami Beach would never be so crass as to manufacture votes, and nobody ever

called him the Duke of anything. Presiding last week at a meeting of the Miami Beach City Council, His Honor wore a brown jacket, linen pants neatly molded to his modest paunch, tan-and-white sneakers which could have passed for bedroom slippers. Cocked off centre in his tanned, round, somewhat sallow face was one of Shorty's High Grade Stogies (made in Gallipolis, Ohio), which the Mayor continually chews or smokes.

John Levi speaks of "the Beach" as fondly as he would of a child (he has none: handsome Mrs. Levi has a son by a previous marriage). He is 64; she is perhaps ten years younger. The Levis, like many another moderately well-to-do couple whose spacious, substantial but unobtrusive homes dot the less effulgent sections of Miami Beach, are never seen at the Surf, Bath or Brook (gambling) Club. They eschew such roisterous joints as Mother Kelly's night club. "My position, you know," the Mayor explains with distinct regret. Mrs. Levi spends much time at bridge, fishing, or at Hialeah on racing afternoons. The Mayor is likely to be at home, ensconced on his front porch with a rye-and-plain-water. Next to judicious sipping, his joy is Skippy, gifted Boston bulldog, who can seize a fallen coconut, whirl it round & round on the palm-fringed lawn until he has stripped off the fibrous covering. Of this performance, Levi & Skippy never tire.

Mayor Levi pronounces his name lee-vee, is distressed when he hears it called lee-vee, regards his ancestry as Anglo-Saxon. He is friendlier to the Jewish influx than was Founder Fisher, whose companies' hotels still bar Jews.

John Levi actually looks as if his name should be Paddy O'Rourke. He also looks and lives like what he is: a well-off, semi-retired businessman who has softened with the easy years. But in his town's peculiar politics, he is as hard as a stonecrab.

A communal autocracy is his Miami Beach. Shy, able, \$10,000-a-year City Manager Clyde Renshaw tends to the mechanics of city government. John Levi and a close little sodality of realty operators, builders, bankers, other local businessmen tend to politics. They comprise, employ, or otherwise control most of the voting population (4,043 in 1932; 8,552 in 1939). And they perforce are tolerant realists, balancing and catering to the wants of the 200,000 winterbirds who fit in and away, the small but growing number who choose to dwell in Miami Beach.

Brothels are taboo in Miami Beach because 1) they are bad for the home trade, and 2) there are plenty just across the bay in Miami. Gambling flourished until 1936. Then Levi & Co. concluded that gambling racketeers were also bad for business, banged down the lid on everything except one legalized dog-track (which pays the city \$50 a day during the season).

Unlike some who helped to build "the Beach," John Levi has not lost his sense

of proportion. Says he: "They say Carl Fisher was the father of the beach, and that I am the son of the beach."

Journey to the Sun. Miami Beach is "the Beach" because a man named Carl Graham Fisher had imagination and \$5,000,000. Carl Fisher was an Indiana Hoosier, and he was a humdinger. He made his first fortune in Prest-O-Lite acetylene lamps for automobiles, sold out just as electric headlights were coming in. That was 1911, Carl Fisher was 37, and he was honing to play with his money. So he had the Seabury Shipyards in New York City build him a motor yacht, invited Seabury's Superintendent John H. Levi to go on the first cruise—down the Mississippi, through the Gulf and around Florida's tip. Also along were the first Mrs. Fisher (she got a Paris divorce in 1926), one Harry Bushman, and a Negro cook named William Galloway.

Christmas week in New Orleans, Friends Fisher & Levi got tight on Ramos gin fizzes (a drink that was new to them), pelted a policeman with a toy elephant, plucked Mrs. Fisher with an armful of knickknacks. On the Gulf, after a day and a half of freezing storm, Pilot Levi headed for Mobile Bay, beached the boat. Cook Galloway leaped ashore. "I'm never going back on that boat again," he announced, and trudged off toward Mobile. Next day the Fishers and Bushman headed back for

those blue waters and the hamlet on the shore was enough for him. He wired Carl Fisher: "Meet me in Miami . . . a pretty little town."

Fisher met him. He bought a house, prepared to settle down for a long rest. But he was still a young man, and he still had some restless money. On the sandy spit across the Bay from little Miami, a dreamy but energetic New Jersey Quaker named John Stiles Collins had planted coconuts (which died) and avocados (which thrived). Thinking to sell some homesites on the spit, he started a wooden bridge over the bay, ran out of money in mid-water. John Collins' lawyer was young Frank B. Shotts from Indiana, who was also publishing the new Miami *Herald*. To Hoosier Fisher went Hoosier Shotts, for \$40,000 to finish Quaker Collins' bridge. Carl Fisher put up the money, in return exacted 200 acres of Collins' swampland (after prolonged squawks from John Collins). That was the birth of Miami Beach.

Fisher's dredges sucked up the bay bottom, sloughed new land onto the spindly spit. Fisher's elephants (for publicity) trampled down the mangrove thickets. Around the Founder gathered a notable corps: onetime Boat-builder John Levi, now a constructor, engineer, hard-headed "No man" to Fisher, privately wondering what all the splurging would come to;



Mallick from *The Magic of Miami Beach*
BUILDING MIAMI BEACH
 . . . from 75¢ an acre to \$1,000 a front foot.

Indianapolis, leaving John Levi to ship the boat from Mobile to Jacksonville. He cruised it around Florida, discovered that a metal lever had deflected his compass, got sadly lost. But eventually he found his way through the Florida Keys (with a native fisherman's help), moored in Biscayne Bay in January, 1912. One long look at

John Collins, helping Fisher's dream to fruition and himself to fortune; Collins' New Jersey neighbor, friend and son-in-law, Thomas Jessup Pancoast; James Allison, one of Carl Fisher's Indiana partners (for whom a famous military airplane motor is named); Publicityman Steve Hannagan (from 1924 on), who made himself

and the Beach famous with bathing-beauty photographs, now entrusts the Beach and the technique to Deputy Joe Copps; and (by no means least) Negro Galloway, who had repented of his desertion, had become the personal factotum, confidant, worshiper of Carl Fisher (and now John Levi's white-coated, white-pollled house servant).

Founder Fisher made the Beach, made them all. He almost went broke in 1922, recovered; he survived the hurricane of 1926, the Florida Boom and its collapse. He lost his millions not on the Beach but on his extravagant development at Montauk Point on New York's Long Island. When he died last July, "he hardly had one yacht to rub against another." This spring, from Woodlawn cemetery in Miami, his body is to be moved to the only grave permitted on Miami Beach.

YOUTH

Monstrous Lobby

"The meeting will come to order!"

Under the cobalt-blue ceiling and fantastic chandeliers of the Department of Labor Auditorium, the bustle and fidget of over 2,000 young people settled to a whisper. The members of the American Youth Congress, assembled in Washington for a four-day citizenship institute, "a monster lobby for jobs, peace, civil liberties, education and health," came to order. A. Y. C.'s adopted mother, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, sat placidly in the second row.

Many a curious glance was directed at her. For once this sensible woman had put herself in an altogether too quixotic position. She was on record as believing that Communist influence in the A. Y. C. was negligible. As to that, the youngest youth in the hall knew that Mrs. Roosevelt was either kidding herself or being taken for a ride.

One of the "other" Roosevelts, Archibald, son of Archibald, son of President Theodore, sat by. The delegates (here a pretty girl who could afford a fox collar, there an unemployed Italian in a sweater, Negroes next to white friends, students, sharecroppers, a few "youths" with bald or greying heads) were dog-tired. All day they had seen sights, visited Congressmen, argued, walked up & down with rhyming placards: "Heed the Voice of 21,000,000: Keep the C. C. C. Civilian!" "Scholarships not Battleships!" "Dies is FLIP-PITY about Civil LIBERTY!"

But when Chairman Howard Ennes pounded his gavel, the weary delegates perked up. Not because they expected the speeches to be much fun, or because they thought the meeting would advance the A. Y. C.'s advertised aim: passage of the \$500,000,000 Murray Youth Bill to establish a permanent Federal Youth Administration. They had come to see a sideshow. They had their eyes peeled for one Murray Plavner.

For two days Murray Plavner had done a lot of talking. He had praised Republican National Committee Chairman John

D. M. Hamilton for refusing to send a Republican Party delegate to any Youth Congress meeting until it purged "Communist elements which, according to the Dies Committee, dominate it." He had chided Mrs. Roosevelt for chiding Mr.



A. Y. C.'s FRIEND
She too got spanked.

Hamilton. He had made public an attack on the Congress signed by Gene Tunney and four other youngish men. And at this meeting he had promised there would be action.

Jack McMichael, National Chairman of A. Y. C., got up to speak. He rambled along about the New Deal, about the Ku Klux Klan. When he started deriding the Dies Committee—

"Point of Order! Point of Order!" shouted F. Steven McArthur, leaping to his feet. "I want to make a resolution. We must clear ourselves of the charge of Communistic—"

"You're out of order!" shouted Chairman Ennes.

"He's not!" yelled Peter Tropea, up front, waving a book in one hand.

"Shut up. Sit down! Boo!" roared the assembled youth. Chairman Ennes had Mr. McArthur tossed out. Speaker McMichael went on.

"I demand the floor!" shouted Archibald Roosevelt. "I wish to read a resolution. We must denounce Russia!"

"You're out of order!" cried Ennes.

"He's not! He's not!" yelled Peter Tropea, waving his book.

"Boo! Throw them out! Shut them up!" Members of the Congress, taking parliamentary procedure into their own hands, gave Mr. Tropea the bum's rush. Peter Tropea put up a fight, managed to break free and throw his book at an A. Y. C. officer before being ejected. The book was Cannon's *Procedure in the House of Representatives*.

Archibald Roosevelt meanwhile was singing out his resolution over the din.

One youth briefly wrestled with him. He sat down, sulked, walked out. Smugly the audience settled down. Complacently they listened to the evening's speeches.

Next morning the young folks were in fine fettle. Despite a cold, raw drizzle, they formed in line and paraded towards the White House, 4,466 strong. By the time they reached the White House their spirits were chilled and their hearts were not in their throats as they sang:

*We've been getting nothing else but love,
Franklin,
That's the only thing we've plenty of,
Franklin.*

After they had stood in the rain an hour, the youths' spirits were somewhat damped. Finally the President stepped out on the South Portico. He began talking. He tried to be light. No one laughed. He made some political remarks. No one clapped. He was fatherly—told the children to be sure to change into dry clothes when they got home. Not a murmur. Then he lit into them.

When he is pressed, when the time is ripe, Franklin Roosevelt can be blunt to the point of brutality. Faced by these cocky, sullen kids, he let himself go, gave the kids (and their adopted mother, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt) a first-class spanking:

He told them sharply to keep their noses out of things they know nothing about. He noted that the New York chapter of A. Y. C. had condemned U. S. aid to Finland "on the ground that such action was 'an attempt to force America into an imperialistic war.' [Cheers] My friends, that reason was unadulterated twaddle, unadulterated twaddle. . . . [Boos, shushes, dead silence.] That American sympathy is 98% with the Finns in their effort to stave off invasion of their own soil by now is axiomatic. That America wants to help them by lending or giving money to them to save their own lives is also axiomatic today. That the Soviet Union would, because of this, declare war on the United States is about the silliest thought that I ever heard advanced in the fifty-eight years of my life. . . .

"It has been said that some of you are Communists. . . . As Americans you have a right, a legal and constitutional right, to call yourselves Communists. . . . but . . . you have no American right, by act or deed of any kind, to subvert the Government and the Constitution of this nation."

Next day, the woman in the case got in the last word. She told the Congress that it was fine, ignorance or no ignorance, for them to put themselves on the record, as they had, for Ethiopia, Spain, China, Czechoslovakia. As to Finland: "I don't think you should go on record for anything that you don't believe in. . . . I know all the reasons that are given for the Russian invasion of Finland. I know all the reasons because I have heard them from my Communist friends—but I still say there is no excuse for a big nation to invade a small nation, and therefore our sympathies ought to go to Finland."

WORLD WAR

STRATEGY

"Spring Is Coming"

Last week, the 23rd of World War II and the eleventh of its elaboration in Finland, a gigantic slushy stalemate persisted on the Western Front; a third contingent of Canadian troops arrived in England and the first Australian and New Zealand divisions landed at Suez; desultory sea sniping was continued by Germany on Allied and neutral shipping (see col. 3); and in Paris, the Allied Supreme War Council held its fifth full-dress meeting.

France's Premier Daladier, who hobbled in on canes* to apologize for having to shift this meeting from England (the last was in France, at Amiens), later described the gathering as "formidable" ("tremendous"). Originally the Council consisted of four men: Britain's Prime Minister Chamberlain and Lord Chatfield, France's Daladier and Generalissimo Gamelin. This time Mr. Chamberlain took with him four members of his Cabinet—Lord Halifax (Foreign Affairs), Winston Churchill (Admiralty), Oliver Stanley (War), Sir Kingsley Wood (Air)—plus a number of underlying specialists and General Sir Edmund Ironside, chief of the British Imperial General Staff, and Admiral of the Fleet Sir Dudley Pound. M. Daladier produced their French opposite numbers and the whole Allied hierarchy sat for three hours in the morning, 90 minutes in the evening, with long powwows over maps for the military specialists between times. "It was the finest meeting of the War Council I ever attended," enthused M. Daladier.

Problems of supply—food and munitions—were announced as having been specially discussed by the conferees, but the vast horizon for military action which the Council now contemplates was revealed by comments from authoritative quarters after the conferees dispersed. This horizon now stretches all the way from the Arctic Ocean around through the Atlantic and Mediterranean to the Gulf of Persia. In Paris, wise talk was about swiftly increasing aid for Finland (see p. 24). In London it was reported that M. Daladier had proposed breaking off relations with Russia, but that Mr. Chamberlain restrained him, preferring to let Russia take that initiative. The Manchester *Guardian* reported: "The Allies are moving toward intervention in the Finnish War" (see p. 24).

Putting an end to guessing, in which the Germans had gone too low, the Russians too high, Paris admitted that France has 275,000 men under arms in the Near East. London admitted that Great Britain has 500,000 men there—and then tried to suppress the figure. The Australians and New Zealanders landing at Suez were reported to number 30,000, volunteers all. Further attention was drawn to this troop

* He broke a bone in his instep last month.

pool by the arrival in Cairo, Egypt of its commander, fox-smart little General Maxime Weygand, to join Lieut. General Sir Archibald Percival Wavell, Britain's Near East commander, in reviewing an Anglo-Egyptian contingent, three-quarters British

points most directly, was not so tranquil. Soviet engineers, advised by Germany's great fort-builder, Dr. Fritz Todt, are rushing fortifications in the Caucasus, using several hundred thousand workmen, to defend Russia's (and Germany's) oil



WAVELL AND WEYGAND
Their pool grew larger.

Wide World

and largely mechanized, drawn up on the desert just outside Heliopolis. The line extended for a mile and a half, with vehicles standing three to six deep. The reviewing party was an hour and a half making its circuit. Next day General Weygand inspected the Suez Canal defenses.

General Weygand was fresh from checking over Turkey's armed forces, which number another 200,000 regulars, 700,000 reserves. If there was any doubt about what Turkey's Foreign Minister Saracoglu meant when, on his way to last fortnight's Balkan Entente meeting, he said: "Turkey is not neutral but only non-belligerent for the moment," it was dispelled last week by a sudden Turkish gesture. Under the emergency powers voted to the Government by Parliament last month, Turkey seized the Krupp shipyards on the Golden Horn and dismissed 20 German technicians employed there outfitting two new Turkish submarines, together with 60 other Germans working at the Gremlik naval base, in an explosives factory at Kirikkale, and in the Zonguldak coal field. Other Germans made haste to pull up stakes, for now the handwriting on Turkey's wall was clear. Authoritative sources explained that the technicians' dismissal was necessitated by discovery of a sabotage plot. But one Turkish spokesman ominously said: "Spring is coming."

Berlin tried to laugh off the Golden Horn episode. "Things like that happen in Turkey," said a spokesman. "They usually are straightened out later." Meantime, Turkish spies reported that Russia, at whom Allied power in the Near East

supply. Already Russia has mined the approaches to all her big Black Sea ports.

Well she might. For if any outline of the Allied Supreme War Council's spring strategy could be drawn last week, it was this: to continue holding Germany in a vise by land and sea; to help Finland resist Russia in the north; to make that resistance stronger, and at the same time tighten the vise-grip on Germany, by "formidably" threatening Russia on the southeast.

AT SEA

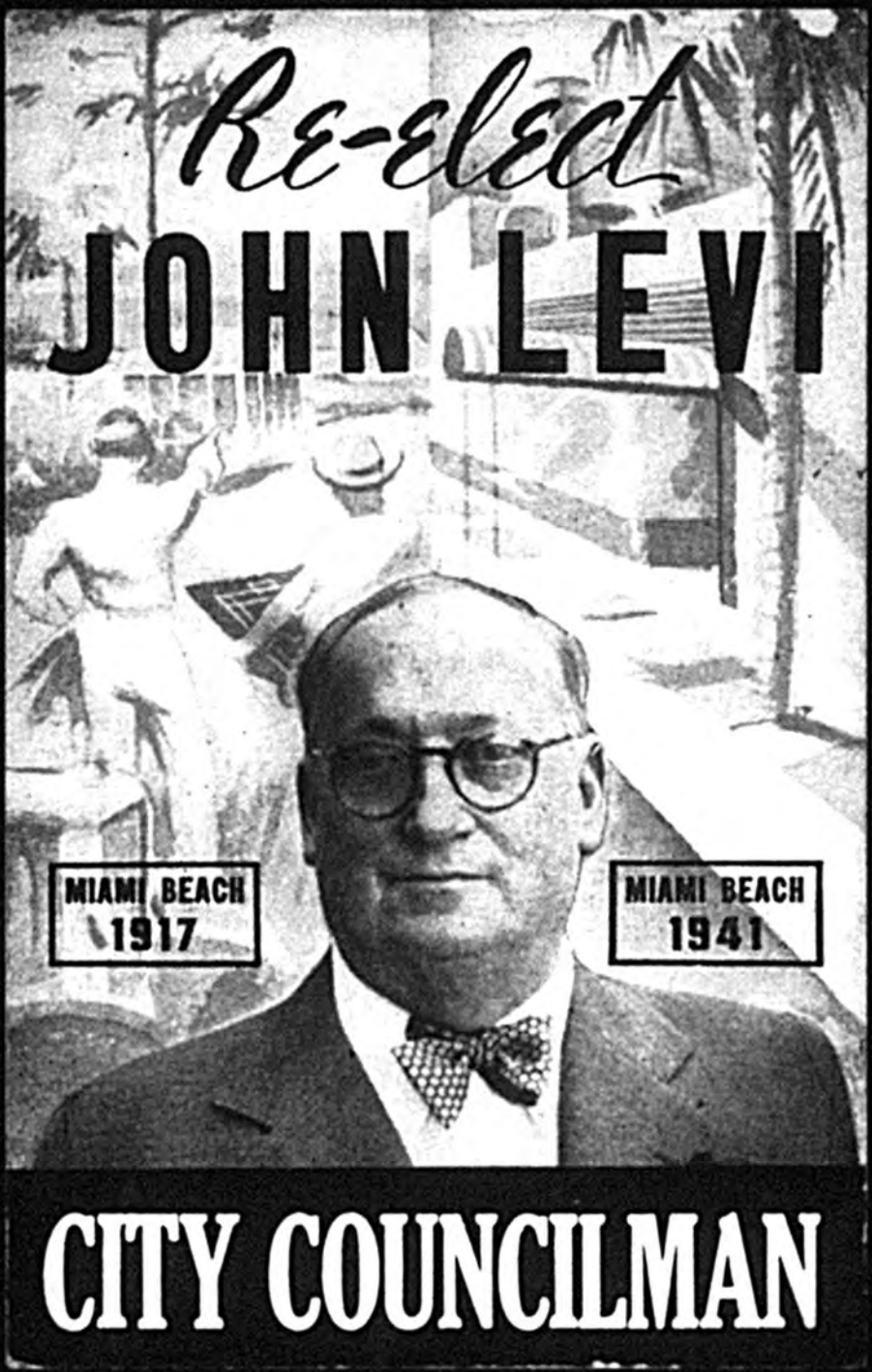
Ducks and Woodpeckers

To men on little tossing trawlers in the raw North Sea, who can scarcely defend themselves with rifles when Nazi bombers dive at them from the storm scud, Germany's air war on British shipping is a very real and horrid thing. Machine-gun fire sweeps the deck, bombs blow the ship apart, men are hurled mangled and stunned into the combers, the ship goes down leaving survivors to flounder and gasp and freeze until help comes, if it does.

But the fact remained last week, after more German air raids over the North Sea, one of which ended with a lone Heinkel bomber being brought down like a shot duck near the mouth of the Firth of Forth, that Germany's winter campaign of harassment affects the mass of Britain's shipping about as much as a woodpecker tapping on a bank vault. Because of the small bombs used and the difficulty of sighting for enough lethal hits, most of the ships claimed as "sunk" by Nazi pilots are only

Re-elect

JOHN LEVI



**MIAMI BEACH
1917**

**MIAMI BEACH
1941**

CITY COUNCILMAN

WHILE serving as councilman and mayor for more than 22 years he has handled the City's business the same as he has handled his own.

Re-elect JOHN LEVI
CITY COUNCILMAN