

**Olds, R. E.**

May 21st, 1919.

Mr. R. E. Olds,  
Reo Motor Car Company,  
Leansing, Michigan.

Dear Mr. Olds :

I have your letter of the 16th and will appreciate very much if you will be able to get a coupe for me.

I am enclosing you a couple of Guest Badges and seats, in the event that you can come to the Races on the 31st. This Guest Badge will get you across the Track and into my stand. Come over and say "Hello".

Mr. McDuffee sent you a set of booklets of our property yesterday. We are making a new three million yard fill at Miami Beach, and building several more islands. I hope you will decide to come down this Winter and look the place over. It has made big strides since you were there.

As soon as our new canal goes thru to the West Coast I want to go over and tak a trip up the West Coast. I imagine this can be done this next season.

Hope you will be able to run down to the Races.

Yours very truly,

GGF:R

R. E. OLDS CO.  
BONDS MORTGAGES  
CAPITAL NATIONAL BANK BUILDING  
LANSING, MICH.

August 11th, 1919.

Mr. Carl G. Fisher,  
Indianapolis, Indiana.

Dear Mr. Fisher:-

Since you called I have been so busy I have not had time to look up the options on the surrounding land on Groesse Ile. I believe however, there will be no trouble in buying up this land at a reasonable figure if it is done before it is known what you have in mind. However I do not believe it would be wise for me to do anything about it because if my name was mentioned in any land deal around there it might effect the price of the land.

I have talked with Mrs. Olds and the family about selling Elbamar. They seem to be opposed to it. However, I am inclined to feel that if I had an offer of \$350,000 for the Farm and the same for the Residence property (deed for which I believe calls for 33 acres), I would be inclined to accept it. It could be made a most marvelous place and I do not know where anything like it could be had for \$700,000. As for terms, if I had \$200,000 down the balance I would be willing to let stand. I would want to reserve REOMAR II as we would want to use the yacht as our summer Home.

I am going back to Elbamar this afternoon and will mail you Blue Print showing lay-out of the lower end of the island. They were about ready to put it on the market when I bought up the ~~old~~ property. Will also enclose a few kodaks.

Very truly yours,

REO/W

*R. E. Olds.*

Dictated but not read

August 20th, 1919.

Mr. R. E. Olds,  
Capital National Bank Building,  
Lansing, Michigan.

Dear Mr. Olds :

I have yours of August 27th : I am just back from a ten days inspection of the principal Summer Resorts and real estate subdivisions in the East. I am more than ever convinced of the great possibilities of your property at Grosse Isle - but just now I dislike very much to tackle a proposition of this kind alone, and I would be more inclined to be interested in the development of the property without considering your house and the 35-acre farm which is a part of the house grounds, as I understand your letter.

The development which I have in mind would greatly enhance the value of your property, and unquestionably my development, if carried thru, would allow you to take as much as \$350,000 out of the acreage around your property and still retain your home. Of course a certain amount would have to spent in dredging and straightening the canals. The blueprint which you have sent me does not give me the information which I would like to have - and on receipt of a letter from you stating if you would be willing to sell me, on reasonable time, that part of your property not including the house and grounds (and under proper restrictions so that your property would be protected) I will send for my engineer in Florida and have him come up and make a survey, particularly making soundings for dredging purposes.

There is one fly in the ointment, and that is whether or not grasses would immediately grow back on the dredged portions of the protected inlets. If these grasses continued to grow it would be a serious problem in my mind whether the property would bring the price necessary to obtain to warrant the heavy expenditure in dredging and bulkheading.

Can't you send me a blueprint of the entire lower peninsula of Grosse Ile - all that part which belongs to you marked in red or some distinctive color - and a blueprint drawn to scale so that I can get a better idea of the frontage available ?

I am closely in touch with the proper dredge man to do that part of the work at a very reasonable price - we have done so much of this work in Florida.

August 20th, 1919.

Mr. E. E. Olds,  
Capital National Bank Building,  
Lansing, Michigan.

Dear Mr. Olds :

I have yours of August 14th : I am just back from a ten days inspection of the principal Summer Resorts and real estate subdivisions in the East. I am more than ever convinced of the great possibilities of your property at Groese Isle - but just now I dislike very much to tackle a proposition of this kind alone, and I would be more inclined to be interested in the development of the property without considering your house and the 35-acre farm which is a part of the house grounds, as I understand your letter.

The development which I have in mind would greatly enhance the value of your property, and unquestionably my development, if carried thru, would allow you to take as much as \$300,000 out of the acreage around your property and still retain your home. Of course a certain amount would have to spent in dredging and straightening the canals. The blueprint which you have sent me does not give me the information which I would like to have - and on receipt of a letter from you stating if you would be willing to sell me, on reasonable time, that part of your property not including the house and grounds (and under proper restrictions so that your property would be protected) I will send for my engineer in Florida and have him come up and make a survey, particularly making soundings for dredging purposes.

There is one fly in the ointment, and that is whether or not grasses would immediately grow back on the dredged portions of the protected inlets. If these grasses continued to grow it would be a serious problem in my mind whether the property would bring the price necessary to obtain to warrant the heavy expenditure in dredging and walkways.

Can't you send me a blueprint of the entire lower peninsula of Groese Ile - all that part which belongs to you marked in red or some distinctive color - and a blueprint drawn to scale so that I can get a better idea of the frontage available ?

I am closely in touch with the proper dredge man to do that part of the work at a very reasonable price - we have done so much of this work in Florida.

Mr. R. E. Olds. #2. August 20th, 1919.

I would like to have you consider, if you would, going in with me on perhaps a half-basis for the development of the Farm, and allowing me to handle the work. I believe I would rather live on the southern part of Croese Ile than any place in the United States that I have seen, if it was fixed up and if there was some life.

I will be in Detroit in about a week and will be very glad to meet you again and go over this matter - but in the meantime, if you could send me a blueprint to scale, it would help out considerably.

Yours very truly,

CGP:R

COPY

August 20th, 1919.

Mr. R. H. Olds,  
Capital National Bank Building,  
Lansing, Michigan.

Dear Mr. Olds :

I have yours of August 17th : I am just back from a ten days inspection of the principal Summer Resorts and real estate subdivisions in the East. I am more than ever convinced of the great possibilities of your property at Grosse Isle - but just now I dislike very much to tackle a proposition of this kind alone, and I would be more inclined to be interested in the development of the property without considering your house and the 33-acres farm which is a part of the house grounds, as I understand your letter.

The development which I have in mind would greatly enhance the value of your property, and unquestionably my development, if carried thru, would allow you to take as much as \$350,000 out of the acreage around your property and still retain your home. Of course a certain amount would have to be spent in dredging and straightening the canals. The blueprint which you have sent me does not give me the information which I would like to have - and on receipt of a letter from you stating if you would be willing to sell me, on reasonable time, that part of your property not including the house and grounds (and under proper restrictions so that your property would be protected) I will send for my engineer in Florida and have him come up and make a survey, particularly making soundings for dredging purposes.

There is one fly in the ointment, and that is whether or not grasses would immediately grow back on the dredged portions of the protected inlets. If these grasses continued to grow it would be a serious problem in my mind whether the property would bring the price necessary to obtain to warrant the heavy expenditure in dredging and bulkheading.

Can't you send me a blueprint of the entire lower peninsula of Grosse Ile - all that part which belongs to you marked in red or some distinctive color - and a blueprint drawn to scale so that I can get a better idea of the frontage available ?

I am closely in touch with the proper dredge man to do that part of the work at a very reasonable price - we have done so much of this work in Florida.

Mr. R. E. Olds. -2. August 20th, 1919.

I would like to have you consider, if you would, going in with me on perhaps a half-basis for the development of the farm, and allowing me to handle the work. I believe I would rather live on the southern part of Grosse Ile than any place in the United States that I have seen, if it was fixed up and if there was some life.

I will be in Detroit in about a week and will be very glad to meet you again and go over this matter - but in the meantime, if you could send me a blueprint to scale, it would help out considerably.

Yours very truly,

OGF:R



R. E. OLDS CO.  
BONDS MORTGAGES  
CAPITAL NATIONAL BANK BUILDING  
LANSING, MICH.

September 2, 1919.

Mr Carl G. Fisher,  
Indianapolis, Indiana.

Dear Mr Fisher,-

On returning to my desk I find your letter of August 20th. It would suit me just as well not to consider the residence property, as it is so beautiful and restful there that I doubt very much whether I would ever care to sell it, but as to the farm property, it is more or less of a bother to try to run a farm of this size and I would be willing to sell this on a moderate payment down and the balance to stand to suit the purchaser. For instance, if he wanted to pay \$50,000.00 down the balance could be spread over a term of years so that the money would practically come out of the improved property.

As to going in with you, I do not know of anyone I would be more willing to take a chance with in an enterprise, but at the same time I am trying to retire as I find that my own business and enterprises take all the time that I wish to devote to business.

I note what you say about growth of grasses in the dredged portions. What dredging I have done here I have found that there was a sandstone rock at a depth of from six to nine feet. All the dredging I have done has been with a dipper dredge which does not clean up the bottom. Notwithstanding this very little grass has shown up in the portion that has been dredged about four years. Any time when I see fit to put in a suction dredge and clean out the two or three feet of mud on the rock I am confident that that would be the end of weeds or grasses. I notice this, too, that the grasses are not plentiful where there is any current. In fact, the dredging that I have done down at the lower end of Grosse Ile is practically free from weeds or grasses.

I note with much pleasure what you say about the southern part of Grosse Ile. I endorse this sentiment, as I feel there is not another location like this anywhere in the United States where we have five to ten miles of clear sailing water in the mouth of the Detroit River for sailing yachts, we have the inside harbors and free access to the river up and down the flats, and with fast motor boats, as we have at this day, there is no location equal to it.

I am going back to Elhamar tomorrow and will mail you blueprint showing the whole island and will mark around that portion which I own.

I wish you would drop me a line at Grosse Ile just how soon your engineer could look the property over and when you are likely to be in Detroit again. You certainly have the right idea for making a wonderful place out of this.

Trusting to hear from you soon, I remain,

Yours very truly,



REC-MB

Price on  
Other property.

September 5th, 1919.

Mr. R. E. Olds,  
Capital National Bank Building,  
Lansing, Michigan.

Dear Mr. Olds :

I have yours of September 2nd : I have written my Engineer to come North and look over the fill in question, and give me an estimate. He will probably be North within the next week or ten days.

You have forgotten to send me the map showing your property and the other property surrounding yours - and particularly the property which has a long water frontage adjoining your property on which you said you could get a price. I think you could handle the price on this property better than an outsider could.

Yours very truly,

GGF:R

September 12th, 1919.

Mr. R. E. Olds,  
Reo Motor Car Company,  
Lansing, Michigan.

Dear Mr. Olds :

I would appreciate it very much if you would interest yourself in a couple of Reo Coupes that are coming thru for me at the Factory some time in the next month.

About five years ago you made up a Reo Coupe for Mrs. Fisher and I explained to you at the time that I would appreciate it very much if you would have the springs polished before the job was assembled as it made a much easier job. This order was put thru the factory and this particular Coupe is the easiest riding Coupe we have ever had in this district. I think a big part of the success of the riding qualities of this car was due to the fact that the springs were thoroly polished and that they were just a little bit lighter than the usual equipment.

After receiving the Coupe here, it is quite a big job to tear it down, take the springs off, polish them and reassemble the car - but it isn't so much of a job for the factory to do this work before it is assembled. Personally I think that the manufacturer who pays a little more attention to the spring equipment will reap some benefit, as the majority of coupes ride hard, especially after the springs get rusty.

If you have never tried this out on your own car I would like to have you do it and you will see what a wonderful difference it makes, to take down your front and rear springs, thoroly polish them, then reassemble with graphite and wrapped with tape - you will find a velvety sensation in the riding of the car that is entirely absent without this treatment.

If not too much trouble, would like to have the springs on these two coupes polished before they leave the factory. We have altogether, here and at Miami, six Reo Coupes, and I am going to get new ones as these are getting pretty old.

Yours very truly,

CCF:R

R. E. OLDS CO.  
BONDS MORTGAGES  
CAPITAL NATIONAL BANK BUILDING  
LANSING, MICH.

December 17, 1919.

Mr Carl G. Fisher,  
Miami, Florida.

Dear Carl,-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 8th. Glad to get your letter, and at once took the matter up with our superintendent and he is going to try and head off those things in the future.

I do not know that I wrote you about the Grosse Ile property. I tried to land the property referred to and found that they wanted \$750 to \$1,000 per acre, so I passed the matter up.

I am going to try to do business with the Detroit people before I get away for the winter. Am mighty sorry that you did not feel like taking on this 600 acres, as you would have found it a wonderful buy.

I will probably get down to Daytona along the last of next month. Will try and run down to see how things are looking at Miami.

Very truly yours,



REO-MB

December 23rd, 1919.

Mr. R. E. Olds,  
Capital National Bank Building,  
Lansing, Michigan.

Dear Mr. Olds :

Replying to yours of the 17th : Am sorry that you couldn't get a fair price on the Grosse Ile property - and I also hate very much to think that you are going to sell it. It is a wonderful piece of property and you could do so much with it yourself at a very reasonable cost and it would pay you very big dividends. It is so easy to do things with your property as compared with what we are doing here.

I only wish that I felt free to say that I could chip in four or five hundred thousand dollars on that job and do it at once, but with the big job we have on hand here we don't feel that we can take any more large risks on a loan. If you should decide to work this out yourself, I would be very glad to do anything I can to co-operate with you and to furnish you with some expert dredge men who have done a great deal of work for us here and who could undoubtedly handle that job at a very economical cost to you.

I am only sorry that we couldn't make a deal to go into the thing together and share the responsibility.

Yours very truly,

C&F:R