

J. F. JAUDON INVESTMENTS

OWNER OF DADE AND COLLIER COUNTY VEGETABLE AND FRUIT LANDS
DEVELOPING VALMONT AND JAUDON IN COLLIER COUNTY
ON THE TAMiami TRAIL

MIAMI - FLORIDA

February 10, 1930

Dear Friend:-

Subject: TURNER - HALFWAY - NEW - (ALLEN) NOW
BARRON RIVERS and DRAINAGE

With the fact of the unprecedented rain fall of over 95 inches the last past year against more or less the 60 inches ^{average} in our area, and with a sincere desire to study and know the exact situation at this time to the end that we may be able to control the conditions should this occur again.

Let me preamble by saying that the present crop of tomatoes is but one of many which we all hope to have in the future. It may be that we will make large sums of money from this years crop, and it may be that we lose money. Anyhow we are on the job doing our best in our own way.

If you will study the map attached I am sure it will show you about all that my engineer Capt. W. A. Roberts and I could report, but let me make some comments on same. Please note as follows:

1. Our ^{drainage} area is from the NE to the SW except along the Tamiami Trail and the canal parallelling same carrying the spill and accumulation for over twenty miles from the East to the West, in fact, a little North of West.

2. That the land rises at the rate of about one foot to the mile from South to North.

3. That nature has provided for our area (Township 52 South, Range 30 and 31 East) with distinct natural drains.

- (a) New River
- (b) Turner River
- (c) Halfway River or Creek
- (d) Barron River (Allen)

All of them emptying into Chokoloskee Bay. These four rivers could and would take care of any unusual rain fall after our rainy season is over, during the months of December, January and February, were it not for the fact that in the State Road Department's construction of the Tamiami Trail unfortunately, ^{they} made a dam for many many miles without sufficient bridges being built, ^{and the resulting} ~~x~~ impounding of large volumes of water North of the Tamiami Trail during the unusual rain fall period.

As a matter of fact large carrying capacity bridges should have been built and should now be built at the points indicated by ~~red~~ ~~xxx~~ X marked on the map.

^{Turner}
New River, Halfway, ~~and~~ Allen, now Barron River, must carry to the Gulf of Mexico the rain fall of this area, in addition to such rain fall ^{as} falls on areas which spill their waters toward the South and southwest. Hence, large carrying capacity bridges and outlets should have been provided along this 18 miles to afford quick run off of the impounding ^{of} waters North of the Tamiami Trail, in fact at each natural drain or bridge and drain, ^{their} should be built, ^{an outlet} for a quarter of a mile or more to the southward so the water could be carried to the Gulf.

During the past ten days I have personally, with engineers and guide^s inspected each of these outlets ^{to} the Gulf and find they should have wide openings and bridges over them ~~xxxxxxx~~ to drain to the Gulf. These rivers heads should be cleared from sunken logs, heavy growth and grass for some distance south of the Tamiami Trail to

provide quick run off of the water.

I am just back from an inspection of Turner River from the Tamiami Trail South. The water is finding its way to the Gulf through narrow channels, sunken or half sunken logs and debris, ^{retaining} and it flows ^{its} ~~current~~ from two to five miles per hour but its flow is retared and these outlets ^{must} ~~should~~ be opened.

It would take but little money to clear this situation. I could enter into minute details but let us all get busy and,

(a) Get the State Road Department to construct added bridges where necessary ^{under} ~~over~~ the Tamiami Trail.

(b) Clear the head waters of these rivers.

The Tamiami Trail has cost millions of dollars but it is worth far more than it cost and this is no criticism,- for when the Tamiami Trail was constructed it was not known that such large areas would be placed under cultivation in our area nor was it known that the conditions ~~XXXXXX~~ as set forth in this letter existed, but let us follow nature in the drainage plan and lets do it now.

I made the trip a few days ago down Turner River from the bridge on the Tamiami Trail ^{and found that} about 300 yards south logs and debris blocked the channel, - ~~but~~ the trip was picturesque, I found Mapel, ash, rubber trees, - palmetto, palm, sweet bay, bitton wood, custard apple and other trees all along, ^{the channel} In places the channel ^{was blocked by} ~~was~~ old logs and thick vines, morning glories, moon vine, barrel flag, ferns, cypress, Spanish moss, Pond apple tree ^{here} all along the way.

There is a well defined channel from the bridge to where the river opens to Chokoloskee Bay, but the channel in places is only a few feet wide through thick growth of reeds and flags.

About two miles south of the Tamiami Trail on the West Bank on a mound there is two large rubber trees and a ¹¹/_{Mascott}² tree which evidently was an old Indian Camp,- this was where one goes out first into open prairie, and there you can see pine timber to the East and high prairie to the west. In other words, at this point we approached the point of a funnel and a number of creeks and drains ~~add~~ add to carrying the water to the Gulf, and for about a half mile at this point the channel of Turner river ^{must} ~~should~~ be much wider and improved.

All along the route were birds of many kinds: Cranes, Ibis, curlews, Wild turkey, Coots, ducks etc. The river abounds in fish; trout, snapper, bream, jack, cavallia, rovallia, mullett.

All of this shows that if this channel is opened so that launches can go from Turner River Bridge on the Tamiami Trail to the Gulf of Mexico that not only a quick run off will be provided, but that a st more picturesque and valuable water way will be opened for the use of both residents and visitors.