

The First Causeway in Florida

The Lummus Company, composed of my brother, J.E. and myself, took up with the Dade County Commissioners in 1916 the question of the County building a Causeway across Biscayne Bay connecting Miami and Miami Beach, from 13th Street in Miami to 5th Street in Miami Beach.

Roy Wilson, the Engineer for the Lummus Company, drew the plans which were afterwards approved by the Dade County Engineer, also Isham Randolph of Chicago, and the Government Engineers in Washington. Wilson estimated it would cost \$600,000.00. That looked "awful big" to a County of only about 8000 population at that time, but finally, after S.A. Belcher, Chairman of the County Commissioners, had put in all his time for several weeks on the project, the Commissioners decided to call a Bond issue for that amount, provided the Lummus Company would give Dade County a strip of ground 300 by 500 feet with Riparian Rights on Biscayne Bay for the Causeway landing on the Miami Beach side. We gave it to them on October 18, 1916, as recorded in Deed Book 157 at Page 345, Records of Dade County, Florida. This Deed was conveyed to the Southern Bank and Trust Company as TRUSTEE.

The Bond issue was called, and carried almost 2 to 1. The Southern Bank and Trust Company conveyed the land to Dade County by Deed dated December 21, 1920, recorded in Deed Book 232 at Page 116, February 24, 1921. The County Commissioners thought at that time that they would require that much land for the Causeway landing, but on December 11, 1923, the Allison Realty

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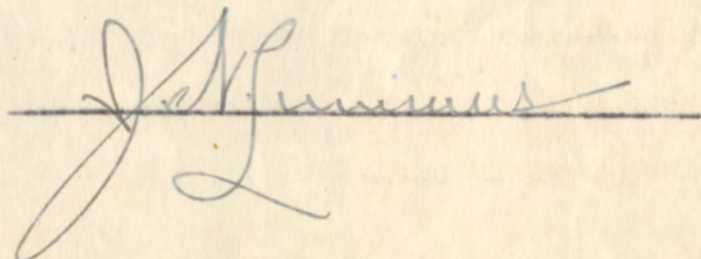
Company offered Dade County \$14,400.00 for a small portion of this land lying North of 5th Street. The Commissioners decided the County did not need it, and sold it to the Allison Realty Company as shown in Deed Book 372, at Page 161, Records of Dade County, Florida.

On December 10th, 1925 the City of Miami Beach offered Dade County \$ 75,000.00 cash for a portion of this property South of 5th Street, and it was sold to the City of Miami Beach by Deed recorded in Deed Book 824, at Page 475, Records of Dade County, Florida. This is where the Chamber of Commerce building is located.

This Causeway business was something new and the Commissioners had no money for conducting a Bond campaign, so my brother, J.E., Carl Fisher, and I each, donated \$2,000.00, and with the Commissioners' help and hundreds of our other friends, we put it over. Now my brother, J.E., and I not only contributed \$4,000.00 to put the Bond issue over, but also contributed to Dade County land for which it realized \$89,400.00 cash. This shows that you have to give to get results.

I asked the present Commissioners to make a resolution confirming the above and place it on land still owned by Dade County, and the reply follows.

This written November 21st, 1949.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. E. Fisher", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "F".

Copy

B O A R D O F
C O U N T Y C O M M I S S I O N E R S

Dade County, Florida
P. O. Box 3289
Miami 21, Florida

October 20, 1949

Hugh Peters, Chairman
District No. 2
I. D. MacVicar, Vice Chr.
District No. 3
Jesse H. Yarborough
District No. 1
Preston B. Bird
District No. 4
Louis F. Snedigar
District No. 5
E.B. Leatherman, Clerk
H.S. Sweeting, Deputy Clk.
Hudson & Cason, Attorneys

Honorable J. N. Lummus
341 N. W. 39th Street
Miami, Florida

Dear Mr. Lummus:

Replying to your letter of September 9th, in which you request that a glass covered resolution be placed on the property on Miami Beach which was deeded to Dade County on October 18, 1916, by you and your brother, J. E. Lummus.

I have taken this matter up with the Board of County Commissioners, and also had the land abstracted by our right-of-way department, and I am enclosing herewith report from Mr. E. A. Anderson, regarding his findings. You will notice from Mr. Anderson's report, that under date of December 11, 1923, Dade County deeded Lot 52 to the Allison Realty Company, and on July 27, 1938, conveyed the remaining property to the City of Miami Beach.

Therefore, this leaves us with no property on which we could erect this resolution as recommended in your letter.

I am sure that I express the feeling of our Board of County Commissioners when I say that we are sorry that we find it will not be possible for us to comply with your request. Because I believe that no citizens of Dade County have ever rendered more or greater service to the development of this wonderful county than you and your brother, Mr. J. E. Lummus.

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Yours respectfully,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Dade County, Florida

By: signed: Hugh Peters
CHAIRMAN