

The two British peers were so delighted with Miami Beach that they repaid Carl's investment by buying seventy-three thousand dollars' worth of real estate in a cash sale. They sold five years later at a substantial profit. When the city rendered its tax account, the British aristocrats knew so little of real-estate negotiations that instead of paying the simple tax assessment, they paid the entire evaluation!

When the United States Army polo team trained at Miami Beach while preparing to play—and, incidentally, defeat—the British team, we felt our city was indeed the center of international polo.

Polo meant parties—gatherings of the game that added new color to the steadily brightening social life at Miami Beach. A vivid splash was the arrival of the polo team of the Cuban Army, accompanied by a beautiful Arabian horse, Cuba Bebe, a gift to me from President Machado. Handsome, dark-skinned young officers were our guests at The Shadows while waiting for the game against our Miami Beach team, and I put them all to work turning The Shadows in a *bahio*, or Cuban farm, for a Havana beach party.

Copper and bronze fighting cocks strutted by the doors, and the music of Cuban string instruments and native drums throbbed through house and garden. The Cuban Army had dug the pits in the garden where whole hogs were roasting on spits, and yams and corn in the husk was baked in the ashes.

Three hundred and fifty guests sat down to supper in the dining room opening on the sea, palms and stars, while the native music throbbed on through the night. At intervals, Reinald Werrenrath sang arias that had thrilled Metropolitan listeners in New York, and Sybil Cromer, a lovely figure in Spanish costume, crooned Cuban songs from the balcony.

At the height of the evening, Carl disappeared and I later found him in bed, asleep under his pictures of Lincoln and Napoleon. The next morning he insisted that it had been one of the best of parties and he'd had a wonderful time. "Only I know when to go to bed," he commented amiably.

As social life developed at Miami Beach, our parties at The