

Those millions did not appear. Men who two years before had been pleading for the privilege of investing in Carl Fisher's newest dream were now congratulating themselves upon their foresight in staying out of the Montauk project. Those who had been taken in were refusing to risk more money. Carl was left to face the issue of Montauk by himself.

On the strength of the Montauk sales of 1925 and 1926, he had expanded its water lines and sewers and buildings. Now the bonds were coming due. And Carl would have to make good on the Montauk bonds.

My own affairs were in order, all arranged through the attorneys according to Carl's directions. I had divorced him with no worries about my future and with no questions as to arrangements made. My trust in him was implicit, and it had been more than repaid. Moreover, years after our divorce and my remarriage, Carl was still showering me with gifts and with his protective care.

Now, realizing the financial difficulties rising at Montauk Point, I offered to give him back everything he had given me. "Hell, honey, keep your pin money. If I lose everything, why I'll just move right back in with you. Bob wouldn't be jealous of an old bow-legged has-been like me."

Sometimes, watching his increasing nervousness, the way he paced back and forth in the house or on the lawn during his visits, I tried to persuade Carl to obey his doctor's orders and rest.

"Why don't you take things easy for a little while, dear?" I said to him one time. "For at least once in your life, why not take time and try not to rush Montauk?"

I remember every word of his answer. "Time? Hell, I haven't got time to take time! I'd rather wear out than rust to death. Mark my words, Jane, time is going to be the most precious commodity of the future. People have always thought there would always be plenty of time. Time has been pictured as an old codger with a long gray beard. But time is security and keeping a jump ahead of the other fellow. It's the swiftness and intelligence of youth. Time isn't old, it's young."