

feeling of the North to our discontented paradise. While build-

I was determined to have a Christmas that would bring the
wanted to go home to Indianapolis.

Even Lee Appleget told Carl that he hadn't had a decent
drink of water since he started working on the Beach, and he

they reached the Beach.
blocks of ice brought over from the mainland melted before

nant sea water and was unfit for human use. The fifty-pound
but the water came from too near the surface; it tasted of stag-

major source of complaint. Wells had been dug by this time,
Discontent spread around Christmas time. Water was the

associated with the Yule season.
were missing snow and sleighbells and everything that was

break frontiers. In the beginning, Christmas was the worst time
for the families from the North. I knew that the other wives

We pioneers in paradise knew the loneliness of those who
glow of pleasure. I considered it my birthday present.

Miami Beach. I recall the day of its incorporation with a warm
Lummus its first mayor, would be within two years the city of

Beach, first incorporated as a town March 26, 1915, with J. N.
municipal tax would be over sixty-one million; or that Miami

could have guessed that twenty-seven years later Miami Beach's
three hundred and seventy-five dollars. No one, not even Carl,

The total taxes for Miami Beach the year before had been
twenty-seven hundred dollars. Other sales were equally absurd.

The site of the Breakers Hotel brought the staggering sum of
that day.

in what was still jungle, a few had been brave enough to bid on
the first lots auctioned off on Miami Beach. Twenty-five lots sold

and private launches. Seated on planks stretched between kegs
crossed Biscayne Bay on wooden barges towed by motorboats

in the unborn city. On that day a small and skeptical crowd
February 19, 1913, the first attempt had been made to sell lots

Four months before the opening of Collins Bridge, on
of them said, "It's too purty." And no one offered to buy land.

They would go away shaking their heads. "It can't last," some
Miami Beach and Carl himself seemed unreal to our visitors.