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## PROOF THAT DREAMS DO COME TRUE

Reprinted from the *Fort Lauderdale Sentinel*, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Friday, November 19, 1920, page 2.

When Las Olas Boulevard was built a few years ago connecting Ft. Lauderdale with Las Olas Beach it was cut through the heart of a vast jungle, a swamp of mud and an almost impenetrable growth of buttonwood and mangrove, an ugly blot on the surface of nature.

Even before that time a Sentinel Reporter taking a trip through the tiny islands and mangrove keys adjoining this swamp in Lake Mabel and the mouth of New River lit his pipe and wrote a dream of the time when the energy,

courage, money and vision of man would combine to create here a place of wondrous beauty, a modern Tropical Venice.

Last Saturday the same reporter, in company with R. E. Dye, who has charge of the development since last June, revisited the scene of his early pipe dream and was amazed at what in a few short months had been accomplished toward making the land of dreams a land of reality.

The start toward this realization was only made last January when the real

estate firm of Hortt and Dye purchased these waste tracts of land from the various owners and in February the organization which was to undertake this work, which is the biggest development ever undertaken in Broward County, was formed. The stockholders are Thomas N. Stilwell, William H. Morsches, R. D. Kaufman and Ernest Hill, all of Anderson, Indiana, and M. A. Hortt and R. E. Dye of this city. The company was incorporated as the New River Development Company, with William H. Morsches,



This 1925 newspaper advertisement for lots in Riviera also gives a bird's eye view of the Idlewyld and Venice subdivisions, as

well as New River Sound and Lake Mabel.

President; M. A. Hottt, Vice-President and R. E. Dye, Secretary and Treasurer.

The actual start towards the work of reclamation was made February 7, 1920, when a force of men with axes were put to work in mud and muck leveling the tangled growth of Mangrove and buttonwood, and because burning was impossible the ugly roots, branches and trunks had to be laid low to make a bed for the filling which was to be pumped in.

In May bucket dredges with clam shell and three-side orange peel buckets began to take big bites into the mud and to pile it up in levees around the edge of a tract to form a bulkhead behind which hundreds of thousands of cubic yards of dirt and sand were to be pumped to make the "fill" of solid land which in a few months was to be ready for the builder and investor.

Thousands of yards of white rock were brought down in big barges from the banks of the Everglades canals and a beautiful rustic wall of coral rock was built around the entire bay and riverfront.

On June 30 the big oil burning suction dredge, the Tusawilla, laid its lines of pipe and began pumping a 10-inch stream of mud, water and sand "over the top." When the first contract of 150,000 cubic

yards was completed a few weeks ago another contract was taken and the work will continue steadily, the big dredge working twenty-four hours a day pumping the mud from the bottom of New River Sound deeping the bay into an excellent place for boating, a snug, protected harbor for pleasure yachts and boats of all kinds; and a paradise for fishermen, and at the same time converting a useless waste of swamp into what will eventually become one of the most beautiful spots in Florida.

Wide streets and avenues from 50 to 70 feet have been laid out and already the gracefully curving street around the bayfront has been paved and bordered with beautiful cocoa-nut trees alternating with hibiscus. Work has been started on the intersecting streets and will proceed as fast as the filling will permit.

It is the point where New River and New River Sound intersect, that a most inspiring view can be taken. Here from a slight elevation can be seen Las Olas Boulevard which runs along the north side of the development and to the north of the Boulevard a canal which will be widened and deepened making the Boulevard lots also waterfront lots; on the east of the tract New River Sound,

which is a part of the Inland Waterway from Boston to Key West, and just across the Sound Las Olas Beach. The Atlantic Ocean liners are in plain view from this point also. On the south deep and beautiful New River and in the distance Lake Mabel with its dozens of tiny magical little islands is charming as the Thousand Islands and in a climate incomparable. On the west a 50 foot canal has been constructed connecting with a little lake which comes up to Las Olas Boulevard, thus surrounding the entire sub-division with navigable water and not one of the lots in the sub-division more than 1200 feet from boating and fishing.

Idlewyld, as the new sub-division will be called, offers everything desired to the lover of out-of-doors. Good bathing, good boating, good fishing and climate unsurpassed anywhere at this time of the year.

Positive building restrictions will be part of the deed when lots in Idlewyld are sold. These restrictions will permit only the building of high class houses and every effort will be made to maintain the sub-division as a winter playground and homes and estates of the highest character.