

Mch. 29, 1946

Mr. H. H. Hardinge  
1133 Newport Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Hardinge:

Your letter arrived early this month and was followed in a few days by a visit from George Strachan and Mr. White. I had intended going into your prospects more fully with them but they left unexpectedly early and I fear will not be able to give you a very satisfactory report on your individual matter.

I really do not feel competent to advise you and feel sure the wisest procedure is for you to come to Fairhope on a prospecting visit and look the situation over. You no doubt know that we have no railroad. Everything has to be brought to Fairhope and taken from it by truck express and I believe the charges are rather high.

At the present time all of our sites that would appear to me to be suitable to your need are under lease but transfers of leaseholds are easily accomplished and our collection of the economic rent of the land causes lessees continually to put their lands to such new needs as will best serve the interests of the community. Thus expanding business and industrial needs are steadily pushing residence leaseholds away from the business and industrial areas.

I am sure we have no machine shop such as yours, but there are several garage machine shops and a specialty shop for servicing marine motors, etc. is now under construction. There is no building here that is immediately available and probably the new restrictions on building instituted to make materials more available for residences will be somewhat of a bar to getting a suitable building built for some time. However I hope it will be possible for you to pay us a visit and it is possible you might find something you could buy. Prices here are high too, but it is mainly building price that is high, due to shortage of buildings rather than enhanced land value.

If I can be of further service please write me and be assured you will be welcome in Fairhope.

Very truly yours,

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Secretary

# H. H. HARDINGE

DESIGNER AND MANUFACTURER OF LAWN MOWER SHARPENERS AND SPECIAL MACHINERY

1133 NEWPORT AVENUE · TELEPHONE LAKEVIEW 7080 · CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

My Dear Mr Gaston

Mar 4-46

I have occupied this place at 1133 for 43 years have recently been told that the owners are going to sell it and that the new owners want the space that I now occupy. If this happens I will have to move and I want to move to a warmer climate. I am getting old and the cold weather bothers me. Have you got a machine shop in Fairhope? Have you got a building not now occupied that would house a shop one story 40' x 30' or thereabouts. Heating is a real expense up here and the taxes are high. The building business has been paralyzed for twenty years. The only building is outside the city limits and of course there is a very high premium on both houses and factories. I think the climate of Fairhope would suit me and if I have to move I believe I will go south.

Will be glad to hear from you.

Cordially H. H. Hardinge