

And to eat the fish and barbecue. It was a junket.³¹

The Okefenokee Swamp was swept by wildfires in the closing months of 1931 and during the first half of 1932. These were years of extreme drought. The debris left by the logging operations fueled many of the fires. But these events had little effect on the efforts to preserve the Swamp.

The editor of the Quitman *Free Press* wrote in December 1931 that the Okefenokee Swamp was still a beautiful place and worth preserving even though "much of the natural beauty has been recently destroyed, first by man in his greed to get the native timber and still more recently by savage forest fires which may be chargeable entirely to carelessness, if not viciousness."³²

The Clinch County *News* announced its support of preservation efforts in July 1932. An editorial noted, "we hope that the national government will soon take over and protect it in a natural state."³³

Members of the Georgia Society of Naturalists visited the Okefenokee in late November 1932, including a trip to Floyds Island. Fred Hebard accompanied the group to the island where they had lunch with Daniel Hebard and John Hopkins. This visit prompted several newspaper articles promoting the Swamp as a wildlife refuge.³⁴

A major push was launched in 1933 to build an Atlantic-Gulf Canal across the Okefenokee Swamp. A committee led by T.G. Woolford of Atlanta, chairman of the Georgia Canal Commission, visited the Secretary of the Interior and the White House to promote the scheme. The Waycross *Journal-Herald* noted that the "project was vigorously fought for by Congressman Lankford of Douglas, Ga. for a number of years, this being one of his fondest dreams." The Woman's Club of Waycross received permission to decorate the Georgia Hall at Warm Springs for President Roosevelt's Thanksgiving dinner. Among the decorations, they included a model

³¹Savannah *Morning News*, July 25, 1931.

³² Editorial republished in the Waycross *Journal-Herald*, 12-19-1931.

³³Clinch County *News*, July 28, 1932.

³⁴Greene, *A Lifetime With The Birds*, p. 51.