

nine reforestation corps camps and the purchase "would supply fresh work for the conservation employees."<sup>38</sup> Mr. Deen was not planning to purchase the Hebard property, but a tract near Waycross located on and near Cowhouse Island.

The lobbying effort promoting construction of the Atlantic-Gulf Canal continued in 1934. The prospect of hundreds, maybe thousands, of jobs in the midst of the Great Depression made the proposal especially attractive. But hopes were finally dashed when the feasibility study was completed. The plan was not feasible.<sup>39</sup>

But plans to build a canal across the Okefenokee were soon succeeded by plans to build a scenic highway across the Swamp to provide the tourists in their automobiles a view of the magnificent landscape. By the summer of 1934, plans for the new scheme were underway. If there could be no jobs digging a canal, maybe there could be jobs building a scenic highway. Actually, there were two plans submitted to the State Highway Board. One was a north-south highway across the Swamp from Waycross via Billys Island to Lake City, Florida. The other was an east-west highway across the Swamp from Folkston.<sup>40</sup>

Meanwhile, Congressman Deen's proposal worked its way through the maze of the New Deal. A Rural Rehabilitation Agency office was established in Waycross in the spring of 1934. Proposals for the creation of a Rural Resettlement Project were submitted. They bore fruit in 1935.<sup>41</sup>

The Georgia Society of Naturalists met again in December 1934 to conduct the winter bird census. They spent four days in the Swamp on Floyds Island, studying the birds and other wildlife. They studied wildlife in two main areas of Floyds Island: "Floyds Island hammock, near the lodge, yielded valuable data on

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<sup>38</sup>Waycross Journal-Herald, June 23, 1933.

<sup>39</sup>Waycross Journal-Herald, February 7, 1934; February 15, 1934; March 21, 1934; April 30, 1934.

<sup>40</sup>Savannah Morning News, July 10, 1934. For an comprehensive collection of newspaper articles, correspondence, photos, and other memorabilia on the promotion of the scenic highway, one should examine the Liston Elkins' Scrapbook on the Scenic Highway, housed in the Okefenokee Collection in the Waycross College Library. Charlton County Herald, October 19, 1934; November 16, 1934.

<sup>41</sup>Waycross Journal-Herald, April 24, 1934; April 27, 1934.