

The Committee held a public meeting in Hotel Ware in Waycross in the morning and was motored to Hamp Mizell's fishing camp on Suwannee Lake in the afternoon. Hamp Mizell was widely known for his knowledge of the Okefenokee, its critters and its lore. Mizell and A.S. McQueen were also the authors of *History of the Okefenokee Swamp*, published in 1926.

Members were fed "an old fashioned Okefenokee dinner" by members of the Waycross Woman's Club, including "compone and potliker." Hamp Mizell presented the Senators with an autographed copy of his book. In the afternoon the Senators made their first Okefenokee exploration in boats on Suwannee Lake.

On Tuesday evening, the Committee attended a banquet hosted by the Waycross Kiwanas Club, and other civic clubs. The Senators were introduced, welcomed, and praised for their conservation efforts. Other visitors were introduced and Ralph Newton, the Waycross Superintendent of Schools gave a short address on the Okefenokee and "widespread interest in conservation of natural resources."²⁵

On Wednesday members of the party motored to Camp Cornelia on the edge of the Okefenokee Swamp near Folkston. There, the Senators and conservationists were met by Mr. Dan Hebard and John Hopkins, his agent. They accompanied the party on Wednesday, March 10, 1931, along with seven guides into the recesses of the great swamp. Liston Elkins from the *Waycross Journal-Herald* reported: "It was necessary to travel in flat bottom boats, outboard motors being used for some distance until the party reached narrow channels where lily pads and heavy water growths necessitated the use of poles for locomotion. The adeptness with which the swamp guides propelled and guided the boats with long, slender push poles was the object of many remarks of tribute on the part of the nature lovers...." The party encamped on Floyds Island, "where Dan Hebard, owner of a large section of the Okefenokee, maintain[ed] a rustic hunting lodge." From there the visitors were taken to the various parts of the swamp." The party spent two nights in the cabin.²⁶

Upon leaving, Senator Walcott stated that "the committee was deeply impressed with the educational,

²⁵Waycross Journal-Herald, March 11, 1931.

²⁶Charlton County Herald, March 20, 1931. The guides were Gad Roddenberry and his son Lanier, Doc and Rufus Rider, Ott Hendrix, Will