

mammal life, birds, and plants." The other area was the "sand scrub" country, just north of the hammock. They also examined the prairies adjacent to the island. The members left Herbert Stoddard and Ed Komarek on the island to continue their work for two more days. H.A. (Tony) Carter prepared a detailed account of their activities for the *Atlanta Constitution*.⁴²

The *Constitution* published another article by Carter at this time entitled "Advisability of Preservation of Okefenokee Swamp Noted by Member of Naturalist Body." Carter strongly criticized the conclusions of the Walcott Committee in 1931. He noted that the report was non-committal and was filled with contradictions between the Committee's observations and the reports of others included in the report. Carter believed that the Okefenokee was suitable as a refuge for migratory waterfowl.⁴³

Preservation efforts reached a critical mass in 1935. Congressman Braswell Deen and local promoters, including the Lions Club and the Rotary Club in Waycross were able to acquire approval of a conservation project proposal from the Rural Rehabilitation Corporation in April 1935. It was one of many New Deal projects being sprinkled around on the national political landscape. Called the Georgia Coastal Flatwoods Uplands Game Project, the plan called for the establishment of a game preserve on Cowhouse Island, the initiation of several forestry demonstration areas, including a plan to plow up the native wiregrass and replace it with carpet grass to improve the quality of local range cattle, and plans to build recreation lakes and picnic areas along the highway south of Waycross. Most importantly, the project would employ over 500 men. The plans were approved in October 1935 and funds began arriving in November. Work began in December.⁴⁴

Members of the Georgia Society of Naturalists intensified their efforts in 1935. Francis Harper, and his wife Jean, a close friend of the Roosevelt family, urged the President to buy the Hebard property. As the scenic

⁴²*Atlanta Constitution*, December 9, 1934. His article was reprinted in several other newspapers. See Trowell, *The Hebard Cabin and the Floyds Island Hammock, Historical and Archaeological Information for Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places*, September 1993, pp. 52-53.

⁴³*Atlanta Constitution*, December 16, 1934.

⁴⁴Waycross *Journal-Herald*, April 4, 1935; April 15, 1935; May 17, 1935; October 23, 1935; November 7, 1935; December 2, 1935.