

Tessimer Florida

May, 1924

To
The Editors of Florida;

You men with humane hearts, who "burn the midnight oil" for a better and more progressive Florida and who with your fellow scribes all over the country are in touch with the real rulers of America:

Memorial of Trees.

At this writing the force of every State in the Union is helping in the patriotic idea of a Memorial of Trees for our Soldier boys who went 'over there' or served "over here".

Such a living highway, stretching across the Continent would keep alive the memory of the American soldier and add glory to the pages of history.

This highway should be started and finished with all the tenderness that the different States can give.

Each State naturally will make her own appropriation. Our Florida Legislature now in session should at once fall in line and make her appropriation.

An Everglades Memorial,
with Life Preserve.

Added to the Tree Memorial, Florida can not

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rival every State in the Union and every country
 on the globe by dedicating a sanctuary or Wild
 Life Preserve in the great Conglades to
 the cause of Patrimony. Florida can do this
 without money and without a quibble, because
 she owns these wild and mysterious jungle
 lands.

The Conglades a Gift from the United States,
 In 1850, the United States gave to Florida
 15,000,000 acres of land and water - named
 the Conglades - which in Spanish dialect means
 "Grass Water Country"

Cannot Florida be equally as generous and
 return a part of this gift to be held
 forever as a Reservation for the migratory birds
 of the whole North American Continent as well as
 a secluded Sanctuary for Florida's native birds and
 the little animals within the boundaries.

The requirements are so little to bring the
 Conglades before the world as the greatest
 humane centre of the two continents, viz:
 the site of 100 men with humane hunters, business
 heads and patriots in their cause, and the signature
 of our Governor,
 When this is done, Florida will come into her

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own, This indeed would be a Memorial to
our soldiers, a life saving station for our beautiful
and useful birds and animals,

Few people alas stop to think God's lesser
creations love life as well as the human being

Within the Everglades, the honest engineer admits
there are thousands of acres valueless for
reclamation, and yet as a Preserve, their
value as a winter home for the migratory
as well as stable birds, ~~their value~~ could
not be estimated in the agricultural world.

Upon these lands a perpetual memorial should
be made - a memorial ever green to the memory
of the American soldier - Those patriots who
gave up life and a career that America
was, and the whole world should be made safe
from the tyranny of the Prussian.

The bayonet hands of the Tenton clock of war
and criminal autocracy has been stopped forever,
Let us make our tribute so great, so humane,
that it may never be forgotten.

California, Montana and Arizona each make the
most of their great gifts of nature.
Why then must Florida's great historic jungle

be destroyed? — This mystical wonderland of the
continent, the only thing of its kind on the globe,
is slowly going down in defeat.

Today these startling headlines appear in the press
"Hordes Engulfed the Chief Slaughter grounds of
the United States!!"

From men of world wide fame — scientists
studying the flora and fauna of this "Last Man
Wilderness of America" the few brief but appalling
facts as follows substantiate the above headlines
and bring upon Florida the desecration of all
humanity readers.

Item 1.
140,000 acres of Everglade lands burnt over by "some
one" in this dry season — rendering the burnt peat
worthless, leaving ^{only} the hopeless skeleton bodies of the
great ^{bird} oak trees, palms magnolias etc — burning
countless numbers of beautiful singing birds and the
helpless nestlings in the trees, fish steamed
abov in the warring water courses while the
animals caught in the smoke and flames were
smothered or burnt abov.

Item 2. At another point, a mother turkey

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was shot (out of season) by a white hunter
and her brood of newly hatched young were
left to starve.

Item 3.
A mother deer killed (out of season) and the
little spotted fawn found later dying in its
leafy retreat, where it had been kept by the
gentle mother.

Item 5 -
Plume birds, the snow white egret, killed
all through the nesting season by the man who
bought dollars, and alas, to appease the vanity
of some women.

Item 6.
The alligator, harmless asleep on the bank of
a stream - shot - a target for the leather
man.

Yes, the most wonderful trip in the world
but saddened every hour by tragic sights,
Yes Florida is the slaughter ground of Florida, the
verdict of two of America's most noted citizens,

What must the slaughter have been during the
hunting season - when men with license and gun hunted
under terms of the law, but unfortunately these men
shot every kind of bird, and far too many

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of these hunters will see that these visitors

Wild Life League.

Today people are awakening to the destruction of the wonderful bird life of Florida and are realizing what an asset to a home these silvery voiced birds are and Wild Life Leagues are being organized in many parts of the State.

A Soldiers Memorial in the heart of the Big Cypress would become world famed.

Soon the birds and animals would seek refuge and return as it is an undisputed fact that some instructed sense shows the lesser creatures where protection may be found.

With a Preserve in the wilderness and waterway sections of the State there would be no appeal to Florida for refuge, for under Federal control enough wardens would be supplied to watch the pot hunters and to protect from the "No Touch Fires".

Our Tourist birds would ask no pay for the service of insect killing as they travel over the State to their winter quarters in

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their Glorious Sanctuary. Our nation birds, exact
no "44 hour weekly schedule" they ask no pay, no
drainage taxes for their domain and only ask protection
from the man with the gun. All their
liquid voices sing praises and Thanks.

Can Honduras not see the beneficial effects
of such a Sanctuary? Even the so-called man,
must see the economic effects - when the ^{United States} Statistics show a loss of \$2,000,000,000 annually
in food crops, destroyed by insects, these insects
being the natural food of the birds, that are now
fast disappearing.

Perley Poore-Shubert, the well known novelist and
sympathetic friend of Hmas, who spends his winters in
the Everglades studying the wild life, the flora and
the Semole Indians says:

"The Big Cypress section even today is an empire
of primitive wonder, prehistoric in its wild jungle
setting.

To cut the Big Cypress up into lots and acres
would be like turning the Yosemite into an onion
garden, it would be like turning the Yellow Stone
Park into a factory town.

With the few suggestive hints in this article
will not the citizenry of Hmas act before

