

August 31, 1925

City Editor,  
The New York World,  
New York.

Dear Sir:

Supplementing our telephone conversation today, in which we were unable to understand each other and you suggested that I write out an outline of what I wished to say.

First, it is well for me to tell you my name, Minnie Moore Wilson, of Kissimmee, Florida, the author of "The Seminoles of Florida" and various other smaller works. I am now at the Hotel Imperial for a few weeks. What I want to do -- and in this I wish the co-operation of the press -- is to arouse enough enthusiasm to help me in securing the establishment of a refuge or "Memorial Sanctuary" in the heart of The Everglades of Florida; this to be used as a haven for the migratory birds of the whole American Continent, for Florida's native birds, and for the fast disappearing forest creatures of the Everglades, as well as a place for the Seminole Indians to be free to go and come, and to preserve the wilderness beauty of the Everglades which is yet unspoiled by drainage.

In the Everglades are tens of thousands of acres that will forever be useless to Man, but will make magnificent feeding grounds for the wild life. I am ready today to start a propaganda that will be nation-wide. I want to secure, by legislative action, at least 100,000.

The Everglades have been well called the slaughter ground of America by Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson, President of the National Audubon Society. Florida today owns thousands of worthless acres of water and jungle and it would be a small thing for the State to make this grant, which will resolve itself into a National park.

I have been asked if I have any associates in this work, and I answer no, but I have behind me the hearts of the humbleshpeople of America and am being supported by that tremendous force the press of the United States. I am immensely in earnest in this matter and am not dismayed at any seeming difficulties. I worked four Legislatures before I got my Seminole land bill through, which gave the Indians 100,000 acres. This is a much easier proposition, as the eyes of the world are on Florida, and we can make this sanctuary an asset not only to Florida but to the entire Continent.

In New York I will get the vital spirit of accomplishment that pervades this metropolis. Florida is so engrossed with her titanic land boom that it would be well to have outside pressure brought to awaken her to this wonderful opportunity to have in this jungle wilderness a preserve that would be unequalled in the world.

Today I gave a story to a syndicate which will appear later, but I knew from your assistance to me in the past that you would be glad to co-operate with me in the first steps taken in this work. California has her Yosemite, Wyoming has her Yellowstone Park, and now the opportunity presents itself for Florida to turn her big cypress jungle land into a great, unrivaled preserve.

Very truly yours,

Di otMMW-V.