

Kissimmee, Florida
January 14, 1929

Dr. Edwin Osgood Grover
Editor, Beautiful Florida
Winter Park, Florida

Dear Dr. Grover:

We are still enjoying the memories of the lovely visit we had from you people on Saturday night and wish it could be repeated.

Reviving some of the memories of my work, I went through some of my clippings and found one that I think will interest you very much, since you were interested in the Tropic Everglades Park Association, and because you understand this Park Association so well, I am assuming that you will be glad to read this article which appeared fifteen years ago in the Kissimmee Valley Gazette. I am having a copy made today just because I want you to see how they have trampled the roads that Tallahassee Officials absolutely opposed, going so far as to tell the editor of the Times Union at that time that nothing from my pen should appear in their columns, although I had been writing for them for a number of years on the subject of the Seminoles, free. But when we commenced to get the subject of homes for the Seminoles before the people, they lost interest and wanted to see them put up in North Florida on 100 acres. At that time, the Governor who is now dead, whose name I mentioned to you the other day, W. S. Jennings, owned a great deal of stock and had the power to say what should go in the paper.

The manuscript which you took with you on the "Music of the Seminoles", which was a carbon copy, I haven't yet made up my mind whether it is a really worthwhile article or not. I wrote it this summer in New York and as I wrote I was learning so much of the American Indian through this music, of course I grew interested, and put it into this form. But, after you have read the article, I would like your honest opinion. I have no thought of using it for publication but only wrote it to read before organizations when asked for something on the Seminoles. I think I told you I have seven records of the Seminole Music, which was my inspiration of this article; four of them made into transcriptions, one violin and piano, by Susan Dyar whom Winter Park knew and loved, the other three are vocal and rather pretty but not classics. If I could get an audience in Winter Park, either afternoon or night, night preferably, I have a very lovely concert singer here who will dress in Seminole costume and sing these songs, and also have someone play the violin composition.

This friend of mine suggested that if we could get as much as \$25.00, we would come any time it would suit some organization that would sponsor this, allowing them to make as much as they could out of it.

I think, Dr. Grover, that after you have read this copy and if you will scan pages 18 to 20 of "Birds of the Everglades", you could get up an article that would help me and show the people of Florida that I am a pioneer in this great idea that is now being promoted by the Tropic Everglades Park Association. None of the literature gives me any credit. On the contrary, Tallahassee Officials and their particular friends have done everything they could against my years of work.

I feel I am trespassing upon your time but sometimes we grow desperate and know when we have met up with a real friend.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Minnie Moore Willson.

MMW/ir

P. S. I am going to go through a lot of old magazines we have of the Florida Magazines, of which you took a copy, and I will be very glad, indeed, to give them to you for your work.

MMW