

From Office of the
Tropic Everglades National Park Assn.

April 13, 1931
Miami, Florida

9:15 A.M.
Coral Gables, Florida
University of Miami Studio

Introduction by Prof. H. A. Gilbert.

This is W.I.O.D., Miami, Florida.

The Miami University air program for this week, beginning today and including Friday, will feature the proposed Everglades National Park project. The Miami University is at the very gateway of this proposed National Park.

Ernest F. Coe, Chairman of the Everglades National Park Association, will tell about the new National Park and also quote from others.

Tomorrow Dr. Charles Torrey Simpson, the veteran naturalist, is prepared to tell many interesting things about the unique trees within the park area.

Wednesday the native birds of South Florida will be featured by Harold H. Bailey, the authority on birds and especially Florida birds.

Thursday Dr. John P. Gifford will entertain and instruct his hearers by telling about the Seminoles. He knows his subject.

Friday Professors E. Morton Miller and H. A. Gilbert of the Miami University offer a special nature program.

I will now introduce Ernest F. Coe, Chairman of the Everglades National Park Association. Mr. Coe can always be depended on to have interesting things to tell us about the proposed Everglades National Park. Ernest F. Coe.

Over the Coffee Cups, Miss Ruth has just given us a nice Monday morning start.

It is both natural and fitting for the Miami University to grasp a realization of the opportunities for increased university scope the proposed Everglades National Park brings to its very doors.

National Parks are now very generally looked upon as super-nature study universities in that they offer opportunities for original research work not obtainable elsewhere. There is an increasing appreciation of what the National Parks offer to the nature student. That the National Parks will continue to be maintained intact through the years and be kept practically in their primitive state is an assurance of basic importance. Our country can be justly proud of being the originator of the National Park System idea. Many other progressive countries are now following suit.

Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, Yosemite, Glacier and the other National Parks and National Monuments all are rich fields for nature study. The National Park Service is perfecting plans by which this nature study feature can be expanded to meet present day demands.

The proposed Everglades National Park of some two thousand square miles as now recommended by the Department of the Interior, comprises an area in south Florida unique in many respects, as compared with the other National Parks. This is especial-

ly true of its importance for biologic research.

I have assembled from among the files of this Association a number of statements made by well known authorities on nature study. These refer to this Cape Sable and nearby region.

These statements go to further confirm the standing the Everglades National Park promises to enjoy eventually, especially as to its value to the nature student.

This first one is from the Director of the National Park Service, Mr. Horace M. Albright. He made this statement before the Public Lands Committee of the House recently:

"I think it is logical, although it does not sound so, to compare the proposed Everglades National Park to Yellowstone National Park. I take Yellowstone because it is full of wonders. People do not think of Yellowstone Park as a particularly beautiful thing, although those of us who know it best do think of its beauties more than its wonders, but people go to Yellowstone to see Old Faithful Geyser and those other wonderful manifestations of subterranean disturbance. That is what attracts most people. Now, in the same way, they would go to the Everglades. It is a strange land, full of strange plants. The landscape is strange. The cocconut grove lined beaches are strange. There is an atmosphere of mystery and strangeness about the whole thing that attracts the attention of all who see the Everglades and will attract the multitude as much as a park like the Yellowstone. We have been reading about the Everglades from the earliest days of geography study. The Everglades, like the big trees and the geysers, are in everybody's mind, and we should be given an opportunity to see them."

Here again, and this time from Dr. Hermon C. Bumpus, Brown University, Chairman of the American Association of Museums, and a well known educator:

"Therefore, I may say at the outset that in my opinion the area visited has educational potentialities for the people of the United States which out-weigh those offered by any existing National Park."

"If the proposed Tropical Everglades National Park becomes a reality, and if sufficient conservation efforts are properly exercised, it is destined to become more largely visited and more recreationally worthwhile than any other national reservation."

Again from Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson, President of the American Audubon Society, and active in many Nature Conservation movements. He is a great bird man and bird protector. He loves the Cape Sable region and yearns to see the federal government take hold of it and protect its wild life. Dr. Pearson writes:

"You would make it a national park for the same reason that you would make any other area a national park. I have been in and have done more or less work in a great many of the national parks -- at least three-fourths of them -- and the Everglades is as unique and outstanding an area as that of any national park we have today."

Hear what Harlan P. Kelsey, member of the Southern Appalachian National Park Commission, nature lover and devotee to Isaac Walton has to say:

"There is no other area in this country devoted to a national park like this one. It is totally different in land, water, climate, plant, and animal features, as well as recreational features."

"I would like to mention particularly the marine gardens which have hardly been referred to here, yet constitute one of the most glorious spectacles in the world to see. From glass-bottomed boats we gaze on a fairyland of painted shells and delicate corals as well as marine algae of marvelous forms and beauty, all the homes of myriads of tropical fish, large and small, of extraordinary shapes and exquisite rainbow colorings."

And now from Dr. Paul Bartsch of the National Museum, lecturer, traveler and nature lover.

"Nowhere in the world do you have such a wonderful region as the lower tip of Florida. It is a peculiar region, both from the standpoint of its geology and the floral and faunal aspect." "You have there a stretch of water teeming with all the water fowl -- you have trees which are draped and covered with orchids, ferns, Bromeliads, and moss to such an extent that the hanging gardens of the Sultan of Johore fall into insignificance in comparison with them. There is no region in the world that I have visited that could compare with this lower point of Florida in floral aspect."

"This region with the things that live here today constitute a very fine laboratory for the young geologist. The things he finds here will help him interpret fossils in the rocks even if he finds them on the mountain peaks far away from the sea." "You can see geologic processes actually going on there today. It is the finest laboratory of the land that I know."

"I feel that we have a real national duty for the preservation of this area."

Let us finish for now with a statement from our much esteemed citizen and scholar, Dr. David Fairchild:

"Notwithstanding the fact that thousands of students in American colleges and universities are studying the flora of the temperate regions and reading about such things as cocconut palms and mangrove swamps, their ideas with regard to the conditions which prevail in the real tropics are utterly vague and incoherent because of the well known fact that you cannot learn much about plants or animals without seeing them and it is utterly impracticable to teach pupils from the unnatural and undergrown plants that adorn the small hot houses of these universities and colleges of the Northern states; and no universities have such things as alligator pools or bird rookeries for the instruction of their students."

"It is coming to be recognized furthermore that the greatest element in education today must be the inspirational one or the student gets little from the array of facts and theories spread out so elaborately before him."

"Is there much inspiration to the average boy or girl in the

usual hot house or small zoological garden where the plants and animals are kept in ugly earthenware pots or behind odoriferous steel gratings? Would any boy have the faintest idea of the glorious things of the tropics from weekly visits to these institutions, useful and amusing though they may be?"

"Let him spend a week in watching the ibis flying low over the Everglades or paddling in and out among the mangroves, slapping his legs to kill the mosquitoes and looking for gar fish or the thousands or other forms of sea life that inhabit the waters of the proposed park and he will then have no illusions regarding the drawbacks of the tropics and a correct idea of their peculiar charm and romance."

It is good news indeed to every nature loving citizen in the land that this wonderful Cape Sable region is to be set aside as a great National Park.

Tomorrow at this hour Dr. Charles Torrey Simpson, our beloved citizen and naturalist, will tell us about the interesting trees native to the Proposed Everglades National Park region. I do hope he will tell the story of the strangler or murder fig tree.

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