

MISS HARLEAN JAMES

Few people have had greater opportunity to observe conditions and development of parks than Miss Harlean James. For many years before visiting Highlands Hammock on 30 March 1936, she had served the American Civic Association and the American Planning and Civic Associations as the Executive Secretary. In addition to this responsible position, at the 1935 National Conference on State Parks, she was selected as Executive Secretary of that organization.

Miss James authored two books which are so profound in their scope that, even though they were published in 1939 and before, they are still regarded as authoritative handbooks in their field (“Land Planning in the United States for the City, State and Nation” and “Romance of the National Parks”).

The “off-the-cuff” remarks of Miss James, following her visit to Highlands Hammock, are worthy of study and careful consideration by all future administrators who have any responsibility for this area.

“I am not going to make a speech for it would be in the nature of an anti-climax but I am glad, however, of the opportunity to congratulate you upon what has been done here. I have visited a great many parks but seldom go into one which has not been marred or even ruined at the hand of man. I am glad that you have not tried to improve upon scenery which the Creator gave you here. I am sure that you deserve a good deal of credit for the discrimination you have shown and during the rest of our lives, those who have been privileged to come here, will go about their country pointing to a good example of a State Park which has not been ruined. I KNOW OF NONE MORE BEAUTIFUL.”