

To the Editor, Sebring Daily American;

May 10, 1938

Dear Sir:

After open house day, several citizens mentioned to me that this poem, "The Highlands Hammock," should be put in print.

It was written and illustrated by scenes in a booklet on Highlands Hammock by Yvonne Zuelke, age 13, Grade VII. If you have the space, I think your readers will enjoy the poem.

Thank you,  
Lena Marchand

### **THE HIGHLANDS HAMMOCK**

The highlands Hammock is to me  
A place most wonderful to see.

With cypress tall and ferns so green  
And mighty oaks with vines between.

Over smooth, wide roads the tall trees meet  
And the air is heavy with fragrance sweet.

A rustic bridge of cypress logs  
Leads us over knolls and bogs.

The late sun shining thru leaves of palm  
Shed over all a deep, deep calm.

The streams and creeks are clear and cool  
With here and there a lily pool.

A place to rest and dream awhile  
Our walks that wind for many a mile.

A nearby feeding place for deer  
With song birds singing sweet and clear.

The humming birds and honey bees  
Sip nectar from orchids in the trees.

So come with me for peace and rest  
To the place in Florida, I like best.

*Yvonne Zuelke*

## POSTSCRIPT

The first 130 pages of this study were published in 1966. This edition was limited and was soon distributed. As there have been requests for these publications, it was felt that it might be of interest to note any changes in the conditions, administration or plans that might have taken place between 1966 and 1979. That study has been interesting.

While there are none of the original incorporators of Highlands Hammock, Inc., still alive and but very few of the contributors and workers still around to see the results of their efforts, any of these would be pleased with the manner in which the original plans have been carried out. True, the plans for the Botanical Garden and Arboretum were casualties of World War II and a great deal of work there was lost but the Hammock is still meeting all the optimistic predictions of half a century ago.

There is a limit to the ability to give proper credit to all those responsible for the success of the Hammock park project. (How can one record the value of Ray Greene's contributions?) In addition to the organizers, one would be compelled to list all of the State Directors (Baker, Scoggins, Schaefer, Maisberger, Coldwell, Hill, Miller, Landrum) and all of the superintendents and even the rangers. It is to be hoped that a later study can be initiated to record this history.

Nor is it possible to present all the expressions of admiration that have been expressed by visitors to the area. There have been literally thousands of magazine, letter, and newspaper expressions of appreciation, only a few of which are offered here; these by some who could be considered most knowledgeable on the subject. Probably the most sincere tribute which could be offered comes in the form of attendance records. Park personnel report that many visitors from remote points, return time after time and that year after year, attendance records increase. This indicates that the average visitor is pleased and that he tells others as this is the only form of advertising that has been employed.

The conditions at the Hammock in 1979 clearly prove that the promises made at the dedication and the policies outlined by the founders have been faithfully adhered to during the first fifty years. The successes enjoyed by these practices should encourage continued constancy to these precepts.

Sebring Historical Society  
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