

[Mar. 5, 1933]

Ladies, Gentlemen and Dear Friends:

This is the happiest hour we have yet known on this old Hilltop. Glad memories of other days, long years of effort and planning now fulfilled, a high assurance of splendid service for the rural life of Florida and the southern States down distant generations--these are the quickening and comforting thoughts that lift our spirits as I speak to you this afternoon. At last this old Hill with its groves, fields, pastures and surrounding forest lands has become a Sanctuary--a wild life refuge and experiment station for the farmers, fruit growers, stock raisers, poultrymen, and a centre for the culture and protection of the forest--for all the people of the southland. I love to think of this Hilltop as if it were a Lighthouse illuminating the ways to better seed and stock and methods that will brighten and enrich countless human lives. Under the government of the whole people, it is now committed forever to the service of every rural home. Now is the dream of my boyhood for this noble Hilltop at last fulfilled.

Always I have sought beauty as well as use. Some of you have been amused at my care for pine trees and live oaks and the money and time spent on plants and flowers which brought no money gain at all. And yet dear friends beauty has its own high value, for it lifts the spirit, quickens the heart and widens the vision of the mind, thrilling the human spirit with the unspeakable glory of the Everlasting QUEST. There is a food for the soul as well as for the body--"man does not live by bread alone--where there is no vision the people perish." This old Hilltop should ever quicken New Adventures of the spirit in the hearts of eager youth.

Men come and go upon the scene of life. Much that seems of vast importance passes leaving naught behind. But the discoveries of science, every improvement in seed and breed remains an imperishable heritage for all future generations. The soil is man's home, the forest is his abiding shelter and friend. The strength of democracy, the invincible bulwark of liberty, justice and independence has ever been the free farmer owning his own home, living from the growth of the soil. To this high quest of science in advancing knowledge and fruitfulness in primary production that ever feed the life of man, this old Hill is forever now committed.

Some of you may have wondered at the name Sanctuary. The old meaning of this word is "a place of refuge" and as signifying "Holy Ground". And is not this old Hill now to be a haven of refuge for all wild life and in being devoted to the improvement of rural living which is the foundation stone for a free people does it not become indeed HOLY GROUND. I think of all who have toiled and struggled here, of the council fires of Seminoles before the first white settlers came, of all white folk and colored folk young and old whose labor and love has been spent on this old Hill. Before me rises visions of the future and I see eager hearted youth from the schools, hard handed farmers from

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Gift of Christy Hill
Presented to Federal Government

the fields finding here inspiration and demonstration of better seed and ~~breed~~ breed and culture and I know it is HOLY GROUND.

For the success of this Sanctuary the cooperation of the community and the State and Federal power and departments is necessary. This cooperation has now happily begun. It must be continued. We need daily your friendly understanding help Friends of this community. President Tigert of the University of Florida and Dean Newell and his associates in the State College of Agriculture are interested and helpful friends of this work. Executives and experts of the Federal Department of Agriculture, Dr.s Woods, Knight, Sheets, Mohler, Taylor, Reddington have given this work valuable aid. Their cooperation in the future is assured by their helpfulness in the past. Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace in the Cabinet of President Roosevelt can I think be counted on for cooperation in the work being done here. He is the third generation of agricultural leaders in his own family, his father was Secretary of Agriculture in the Cabinet of President Harding and his grandfather was "Uncle Henry" the grand old man of agricultural leadership in the middle west. With changing administrations influence and conditions change. We have done what we could. We will continue to do all that we can. I see in this company this afternoon leaders in Florida's Democracy and I call on you to tale the laboring o ar. See to it friends that both at Tallahassee and at Washington, what has been so well begun here shall be carried on. Your active help with the officers of government will be needed from time to time.

For now more than a quarter of a century there has gone out from this old Hill the spirit of good will to all ~~these~~ this people and this land. The incarnation of that spirit in this Hilltop home has ever been Margaret Dreier Robins. She will speak to you now.

Richest among the good fortunes of this hour I count the man who is now the Sup erintendent over this property for the government of the United States. Already he has won many of you in this company to be his helpful friends. Trained in animal husbandry and agriculture, experienced in executive management, a man of high character and winning personality, he has drawn about him the good will of this community and the friendly helpfulness of many hearts and hands. Unto him has been committed the general management and care for the work of this Sanctuary-- Ladies and Gentlemen it is an honor and an unbounded pleasure to present to you the Superintendent of Chinsegut Hill Sanctuary, Mr. W. F. Ward.

Colonel Raymond Robins, March 5th, 1933. Chinsegut Hill Sanctuary.