

You Bet Your

# Life

outdoor experience

For those of you wondering how our last hiking trip to the Smokies turned out, well . . . You Bet Your Life we once again survived!! For any of you thinking of traveling up into the Park and hiking around the twenty mile ranger station be sure and stop and have the ranger draw in on your map the Lake Trail. Several of our hikers discovered this forgotten trail on their own. The only comment we can get from them about it is that "it has its ups and downs". The trip home also proved to be an experience in exploration and we are all looking forward to our next hiking trip to the Chatahoochee forests in Georgia.

We have a Tassahlahatchee Wildlife Preserve campout in the planning stages at this point. The preserve is located between Orlando and Cocoa on Highway 50. Richard Demer of the Florida Department of Natural Resources will be our guide to this virtually unknown reserve. For the botanists in our group there are several species of fern endemic only to this location. This will be about a three mile hike and it will be necessary to carry all of your own water.

Another trip in the planning is a weekend canoe and campout to our private island in Sebastian Inlet. This will be one of those luxury-touristy-type trips where you can take that big 20 pound canvas tent, your Coleman four burner stove and your Sony television set, not to mention the portable telephone.

We have finalized our plans for the Annual Everglades canoe trip for the second weekend in January. We will be driving down the west coast to the Everglades Loop. This will be a strictly canoeing campout weekend so get your paddling arms in shape.

At our last club meeting we were fortunate to have as our guest speakers Dr. H. Whittier and his wife Barbara. They shared with us their exciting adventures to Bora Bora and other islands in the South Pacific collecting bryophytes. Their scientific expedition was sponsored by the Explorers Club and the National Geographic and needless to say, we are all jealous that You Bet Your Life was not there.

Plans for our yearly ski trip to Killington, Vermont have been finalized. All deposits are in and due to one cancellation we now have an opening. Departure is on February 29th from Orlando to Boston. Half of the group will be staying for four days while the other half will be there for a whole week. Total expense for the week