



Okefenokee's raccoon population is so large that it can now be classed as one of the swamp's many interesting features.

ward, then southward, into the Gulf of Mexico near Cedar Keys, Fla. As the water drains off the prairies into the cypress forests it becomes stained the color of tea.

In addition to countless numbers of islands which are anchored to the bottom by the roots, there are many floating isles. One may encounter such an isle today in the middle of a lake; in a week it is nowhere in sight. These itinerant islands consist of vegetative masses laced together solidly enough to provide a bed for falling leaves and seeds, while at the same time their own trailing roots have not yet secured a firm grip on the bottom. Eventually, of course, these "floaters" finally become stationary and may in time attain the status of hammocks covered by a dense growth of broad-leaved trees, or "bays," on which groves of cypress have developed. Among the several good-sized islands is Billy's

Island, 4 miles long, famous as the final stronghold of the Seminoles and later as the site of Fort Walker. Once it boasted a population of 600 and a motion picture theater, but it is now all but reclaimed by jungle-like growth. Cowhouse Island, on which cattle farming was once attempted, has also reverted to the wild.

In Okefenokee parlance a lake may be an alligator hole thrashed out among the lily pads, a widening in the boat channels, or a sizable body of open water. The distinction is far from clear, especially when these so-called lakes all interconnect by narrow boat runs or merge into bewildering, seemingly endless, series of submerged, lily-covered prairies.

AS A REFUGE OKEFENOKEE DEFIES CLASSIFICATION. Thinking only of its deer, bear, raccoon, opossum, and otter populations, it could be rated as