

# S. C., Fla. Argue Over Bones Of Indian Chief

MIAMI, Fla. (AP)—Florida and South Carolina are still arguing over the final resting place of Seminole Indian chief Osceola—who was born in Georgia.

John D. Pennekamp, chairman of the Florida board of parks and historic memorials, Wednesday wrote associate director J. Benneth Ballenger in Tallahassee asking if he thought it worth while to make another appeal for the old warrior's remains.

The South Carolina Senate voted to return the bones to Florida but a House committee killed the move. Committee members said they felt Floridians wanted the grave as a tourist attraction.

Osceola died while a federal prisoner at Fort Moultrie, S. C., in January, 1838. He was buried there

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"Our appeal is based on a sincere desire of Floridians to preserve the bones, and a belief that South Carolina's interest is only casual and the destruction of the grave and its contents is imminent," Pennekamp wrote.

"Our purpose is to bury these bones in an Everglades Park which also will contain a Seminole museum, all dedicated to the preservation of an important era of American and Florida history."

Pennekamp added that Floridians may be tourist minded "but not to the point of ghoulishness."

Justin P. Havee of the Historical Association of Southern Florida, said he visited Osceola's grave last fall and fears it may have been destroyed by now.

Havee reported the old fort is being torn down and a dump truck could have backed over the grave and crushed the broken tombstone.

"We may be talking about something that no longer exists," he added.

Osceola was taken prisoner under a flag of truce near St. Augustine. He was born near the Chattahoochee River in Georgia and brought to Florida as a child.

*[newspaper clipping: n.d., ca 1951  
[column 1]*

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