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REAL ESTATE LETTER

The usual spring real estate activity has now begun and the indications are that there will be more sales this year than ever. The stagnation that has existed in most all other lines of business throughout the country doesn't seem to have affected real estate, and the demand for property in Pinehurst is unusually brisk.

During the past week Mr. Lawrence Barr, of Pittsburg, Pa., has bought the triangle on Chinquapin Road, opposite the residence of Mr. George A. Magoon. Mr. Barr has plans already in the hands of his architect and expects to begin work on a substantial winter home in the immediate future.

On Midland Road, at the corner of Kelley Road, east of the Clover Leaf, Mr. I. C. Sledge has also purchased, and he, too, will soon begin to build.

Meanwhile the building operations which were begun last spring and summer are being completed and the houses made ready for occupancy as early as possible. Usually such building operations have been completed long before the first of March, and there has heretofore always been a breathing spell between the time the old work was cleared up and the new work begun, while people were preparing and perfecting plans and getting figures from architects and builders in anticipation of the coming summer. But this year if there is to be any pause it will be very brief.

Among the houses recently completed are: the Fairway, built by Messrs. R. S. Tufts and C. P. Mason on Palmetto Road, overlooking No. 2 golf course. This is a beautiful and convenient house and is for sale.

The Chatham, opposite the Pine Crest Inn, on Dogwood Road, built by Mrs. E. C. Bliss, is another beautiful house just finished, as is also the Suffolk on Magnolia Road, owned by Mr. J. E. Weir. These are also for sale.

Next to Mr. Weir's is the Gables, which was purchased by the Sandhills Construction Co., and moved by them from its former site next to the Harvard and rebuilt and re-equipped. This is also for sale. This same company has built five houses on McCaskill Road which they will sell; and in the same locality Messrs. A. S. Newcomb and D. H. Stutts have a new bungalow just finished.

Last Sunday the new Catholic church was dedicated, and this substantial edifice will furnish commodious and adequate quarters for many years to come.

Opposite the residence of Mr. H. H. Johnson, on Beulah Hill Road, the new fire-proof bungalow being built by Mr. James Barber, is rapidly taking shape, but this will not be completed in time for occupancy this spring.

The Marlborough, which formerly stood opposite the Clover Leaf, on Palmetto Road, was purchased by the Pinehurst Plateau Company last spring and moved to its present location on Fields Road, where it has been rebuilt and now has four splendid apartments for rent unfurnished. This company is erecting a new garage on the Clover Leaf lot which will afford space for four cars and accommodations overhead for chauffeurs.

East of this on the opposite side of Midland Road, Messrs. P. B. O'Brien, D. J. Ross and R. S. Tufts are just finishing one house and have the foundation for another completed and ready for the sills. Both these houses will be very attractive and will be for sale.

Mr. Whitney Marshall, of Boston, who bought the lot opposite the Berkshire, is here with his plans and will begin work soon. Mr. Marshall is an architect and has had long experience building in both of the Carolinas. Needless to say, his plans are most attractive.

The Bank of Pinehurst has been working along slowly on the foundation for its new business home next to the present bank building, and recently the directors, believing the bottom had been reached in prices of building materials, placed orders for everything necessary to complete the job, and work will now be pushed to completion as rapidly as possible.

But the biggest thing in building operations to be undertaken this summer will be the Mid-Pines Country Club house. While this is not directly in Pinehurst, it is near enough to be fairly included in the list of building to be undertaken this summer. The plans are in the hands of builders, who are preparing bids, and the portion to be completed now will cost probably around \$250,000.00.

From all of this it is apparent that those in the best position to know have concluded that the cost of building is as low as it will be, and that now is the time to build.

TOO BUSY MOTORING TO FIND TIME FOR SPORTS

FRESNO, Calif., (United Press).—This city of 50,000 souls enjoys the reputation of having less sports and more automobiles than any other city of its size in the United States. It is probably the only city of its size in the country with no baseball team and no baseball park.

"Fresno is dead as a door nail so far as sports go," said the sport writer of a local newspaper, "and some of us blame the autos for it."

Fresno's sports consist of one bowling alley, two basketball teams and some playgrounds. The high school tries its hand at football in the fall.

"Every janitor and every street sweeper owns his own car," said the sport writer, "and he spends his spare time riding in it. You have to hunt for blocks before you can park on a downtown street. Fresno just doesn't seem to have time for sports. It doesn't even have a city golf course."

But Fresno prides itself on its playgrounds, which are declared to be the best in the state.

Ralph Thomas, professional at the Weston Golf Club, made a freak shot in a match here. Playing the 12th hole on the Number 2 course, he was short of the green with his second, whereas one of his opponents was on the sand and ten feet short of the cup. Ralph ran his third on the green. The shot was off the line to the cup but the ball hit his opponent's ball and dashed off into the cup.

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