

Some Human Habitations

Some Human Habitations. In National Geographic Magazine for July, 1908, a review of my article on the life of the North...

tree-top lodge in the great oaks near Teach's Hole, on the southwest end of Ocracoke Island. These all disappear long before the days of our oldest inhabitant.

Southward from Ocracoke Inlet, such lookouts, as they were here called, have been known for the past half-century on Portsmouth Island, on Core bank, near Cape Lookout, and near the western extremity of Bogue banks, where they were maintained from early Colonial days down to the disappearance of the forests, from forty to fifty years ago.

While the great tree-top habitations have practically disappeared from the tall trees, lookouts of less significance may still be seen where the tall pines come down to the water's edge along the western border of Currituck sound, and I recall one such at Kitty Hawk. Within five years I have also seen them on Jew's Island, Bell Island, Church's Island, Colleton Island, and at several points on the Currituck marshes.

Straw-thatched lodges are also frequently built along this same western border, when trees do not afford the necessary height. They are no longer used by pirates and wreckers watching for their prey, nor by whalersmen seeking big game in the sea. The laws permit hunting in the sound on only four days in the week, and these lesser tree dwellings are occupied by old hunters on Wednesdays and Saturdays, for here they may watch the passage of wild fowl.

It is in this region, too, that the hunter who expects to be away from home for a few nights only makes his nest of rushes under a bush and possibly throws around himself an additional bush or two, or perhaps a few leaves from the fan palmetto, so abundant on Colleton Island. If he expects to spend some time in the neighborhood, he makes a low rude frame of bushes, covering it with the matting of palm leaves, after the manner of the American Indians.

It is also in Currituck sound that the lake dwellings are encountered. These are not for permanent occupation, but are the temporary homes of their builders, who occupy them with their families all the year round. They are built on piles in the sound, which is now a living water, and the water is fresh. The dwellings are built on the salt since the closing of the inlets that afforded communication with the sea. One such house I mentioned in my previous article as having been moved from an advancing sand wave and finally built on piles in the sound; but there are many others built originally as lake dwellings. I recall one where the family occupied the top floor, the proprietor conducting a general store on the level of the bridge connecting him with the mainland, and carrying on an extensive business in the purchase and sale of fish and game at the water-level underneath.

While somewhat similar lodges were found by the Raleigh voyagers to our shores in 1585, as is shown by John White's water-color drawings in the Grenville Collection in the British Museum, the circumstances seem to warrant the belief that they were originally rather than survivors. It is not so, however, in the case of the palmetto shacks of the Florida coast, which are clearly imitations of the homes of the Seminole Indians in their immediate proximity. These Indian lodges are built on piles in the sound, and are high enough above the ground to admit of the present hog with his community of fleas. The lodge is rarely occupied except at night, and the platform in reality is a bed rather than a floor. The driven rain is usually kept out by mats and blankets hung around the walls.

Thus we see that men, however far removed from one another in time and space, instinctively meet similar conditions in essentially the same way. The shepherds who occupied the Palmetto Hill in 1585, built very much like the North Carolina Islanders do to-day, and the Italian peasants of the present time built in the Pontine marshes or in the Argo Romano, when they come down from the mountains for the cultivation of their maize fields, houses essentially like those of the days of Romulus and Remus.

The prototype of these prehistoric contemporary settlements is the village constructed every autumn on the now drained lake of Gabb, at the twelfth mile stone on the Via Praenestina, and inhabited by a half-savage tribe of two hundred mountaineers. The natives of New Guinea, the hunters and fishermen of the fisher's village on the Volga construct huts of essentially the same type.

STATE ORPHAN ASYLUM

BY COL. FRED A. OLDS.

As the writer leaned over the reading desk on the platform of the chapel in the main building at the Oxford Orphan Asylum last Saturday morning, and looked into the faces of the children, who were entering with such precision and who showed in their unafraid eyes and neat dress what good order, love and cherishing means for children, the thought sprang into the mind that if this very good to be there, and so a few moments later, talking to those dear children, they were assured that while there were a lot of things which could be forgotten and which would fade out of memory, surely no one would ever forget a visit to this institution.

And this is a sort of a keynote to the story which will be told about the orphanage; not in detail, for a little over a year ago that was done. Then the writer paid his first visit to that splendid home, and got the first view of the sheltering arms which enfold and hold those children of the Massons and State so closely and so lovingly. With the writer were a couple of sunshiners, these co-workers being Miss Frances Renfrow and little Annie Rogers, aged 10, a really wonderful child in many ways.

So there was a trio of sunshiners, if you please, and the writer was to be with two orphans, a boy and a girl, whose home, motherless, had but a little while ago been saddened by the suicide of the father. It was their first trip on a train and to say that we made the journey, all the 59 miles to Oxford, joyful for them both was putting it mildly.

Presently the Town of Oxford was reached and there were the carriages from the orphanage, and so we made our way to the institution.

to the main building, old St. John's College of so many years ago, with its now quaint architecture, we went and then came a welcome of welcomes from Mr. William J. Hicks, the superintendent, Miss Rogers, the matron, and Mr. Rogers, the assistant superintendent. Our little people, fatherless and motherless no longer the moment they got under that roof-tree, were taken away to be fitted snugly in their new surroundings, dormitories, in places at table and in all the other fine environments.

This done, we had time to look about a little and see things. Hard by the main building stands the new administration building, almost completed and itself a testimony to the handwork of the boys, who made all the brick work and other things, and so this building, very convenient in every way, will soon be occupied by the buildings are of brick and have the air of substantial strength about them; an aspect of permanence and solidity. And the farm? That splendid 248 acres, with a field of green just cut and thickly heaped with straw, and splendid scarlet of the strawberries, which many children were picking and bringing in great pans. In the middle distance were the big barns and there the grazing grounds and the fine cows, and as we strolled towards the hospital we got such a whiff of country air and such a peep at the sweep of the country life that it seemed like a very blessing from nature to the superintendent, who walked along a fine girl of the orphanage joined us and she looked down modestly, when Mr. Rogers spoke of her and said that she had won by her seal, her intelligence and her application a scholarship at the Oxford Female Seminary, and so this girl, on the very threshold of womanhood, her father a distinguished Confederate of very high rank, has her own quiet way made a place for herself. It was not any wonder that Mr. Rogers spoke about these children of the orphanage, of their self-reliance, of the way they "go in to win" in quiet fashion. Mr. Rogers said that each year about forty of the boys and girls, equipped with fighting, too, go out into the great world, the great majority entering private homes, and give to their work that same splendid enthusiasm and steadiness, which marked it while they were under the tender care of the Oxford Orphanage.

The hospital is just as cozy as can be, not formal at all, but with little rooms here and there; one of those houses where you can wander from room to room, and peeping out of window or door, see the country all about. On either side of the entrance is a magnolia; these having been planted by the genial and well beloved State Auditor Dixon many years ago, when he used to be superintendent of the orphanage, for the hospital used to be the superintendent's house. Dr. Dixon had it built, in fact. Now the superintendent lives in the main building. There were no sick in the hospital. The rosy-cheeked children presented such an aspect of rude health as the superintendent pointed out to us that we did not think of the place as a hospital at all. We were told that during the winter there was an epidemic of scarlet fever, but that no deaths or bad effects resulted.

The next in line was made of the kitchen and all that part of the building in which are the dining-halls and their concomitants. Everything was characterized by faultless neatness and good order. The great four-sided range was as clean as a pin. There was the oven and in the kitchen in front of it batches of bread, hundreds of loaves, for it takes a barrel of flour a day for the appetites of the youngsters, who need fuel to make their bones out. The day is divided into study and work and play-time and the children know exactly what to do. There is a military precision about everything which is positively inspiring. Miss Renfrow was perfectly delighted to show us the work of the eighth and ninth grade teachers, and all of us were charmed with what we saw in the various industrial departments. The bakery work and things done with willow and raffia are simply beautiful to look at.

As we were going about, the dinner bell boomed. We were taken through the dining rooms and there the children were, each table having its server and head, and everything being done in that same fine, orderly fashion which marks every aspect of the place. At a table sat our little companions of the morning from Raleigh, quiet at home already. They were tucking away a good dinner, everything well cooked and abundant, to be topped off by the strawberries, which are produced in such profusion. In a chair was the baby of the institution, a little fellow of six years, chubby, rosy-cheeked and with those deep blue eyes in which infinity seems to lurk. Very demure the little fellow sat, quite like a picture-child, once in a while looking up with wistful eyes. We could not but think of what an aptitude for life the assemblage of children was. All classes of people were represented there; people with red blood in their veins, and some with blue. But here the red and the blue are all alike. The bad child is made over, stimulated and helped in every way, and the good one encouraged in goodness. Doubtless the brains in the little heads of our companions of the morning were all in a whirl. The glories of their first train ride were mingled with the prime impressions of this great institution. But they only smiled and told us none of their secret thoughts.

Not long after dinner the bell boomed again, and standing first on the portico, we saw the little mothers of the dormitories form their charges in well ordered ranks and then all marched to the main building. Then it was that we went into the chapel and, leaning over the desk, witnessed the entry. First came the little ones, all blue and white, the little boys with deep white collars, and all the girls wearing elbow-capes of steel-gray. Each one knew exactly the place to go and we could mark our young friends just entering the institution, as they were in their proper dormitories, their charges in well ordered ranks and then all marched to the main building. Then it was that we went into the chapel and, leaning over the desk, witnessed the entry. First came the little ones, all blue and white, the little boys with deep white collars, and all the girls wearing elbow-capes of steel-gray. Each one knew exactly the place to go and we could mark our young friends just entering the institution, as they were in their proper dormitories, their charges in well ordered ranks and then all marched to the main building.

And then the children, after a final song, trooped out and changed their best clothes for those in which they work and play, and as we watched them going back to the cottages, we noticed also a trio of these dear little birds, the national woodpeckers, playing like children themselves, and Mr. Rogers told us that the children had been taught never to trouble the birds.

We visited the shoe shop, the carpenter shop, the laundry, and the place where the dresses and other clothing are made. All the shoes the children wear are made there and by the boys themselves, while the girls make all the clothing.

The orphanage is maintained by the Massons and by the State of North Carolina and at certain times in the year a "chapter" of its gifted young people tours the State. While we were there a chapter was in the field. Superintendent Hicks, so long in State service, at the State penitentiary, has tried twice to resign as superintendent of the orphanage, but the trustees will not hear of such a thing.

Enough Admitted. Norfolk Virginian-Pilot. And yet we find The Virginian-Pilot testifying to the worth of North Carolinians almost in the same breath for it declares that Norfolk swarms with North Carolinians and they are as fine as the finest anywhere.—Charlotte Observer.

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Well, what of it? They do swarm here; they are the finest ever. They were born in North Carolina without their consent. They emigrated to Virginia when mature years had given them the right of intelligent choice, and by so doing they benefited both themselves and the State of their adoption. The Observer ought to clutch at the fact as conclusive proof that nativity in Carolina is not a fatal handicap on the victim of that accident. Even Andrew Jackson was able to get away in time.

When one has suffered tortures from a bad back and found out how the aches and pains can be removed, advice is of untold value to friends and neighbors, particularly when they know the statement is absolutely correct. The following neighborly advice comes from a Charlotte resident.

Mr. M. Smith, 104 W. Tenth St., Charlotte, N. C., says: "My advice to any one afflicted with kidney trouble is to procure Doan's Kidney Pills at R. H. Jordan & Co.'s drug store and give them a trial. About two years ago I had a severe attack of kidney trouble and was in great misery for months. My kidneys were disordered and at times there was a complete retention of the secretions. I had much pain in my back, felt tired and weak and wholly unfit for work. After being treated by a doctor without obtaining much relief, I heard of Doan's Kidney Pills and procured a box at R. H. Jordan & Co.'s drug store. They strengthened my kidneys, removed the backache and toned up my general system. I always keep a supply of Doan's Kidney Pills on hand and a few doses now and then serve to keep my kidneys in a normal condition."

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AT BARGAIN SALE One Aristo Lamp For night photography. The best and strongest electric light made. Endorsed by all photographers. Complete with rheostat. Inquire at or address The OBSERVER Charlotte, N. C.

Table with columns: P. M., Daily, Northbound, Southbound. Includes routes like St. Paul, Ar. Johnson City, Dep. Johnson City, Ar. Wilmington, etc.

THROUGH THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS, THE PACIFIC COAST; ALASKA, YUKON PACIFIC EXPOSITION AND THROUGH THE YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK JULY 3d to AUGUST 6th. Personally Conducted Tour Around the Continent VIA SEABOARD AIR LINE.

Special Pullman train "all the way around" will handle the tour, leaving via the Seaboard, personally conducted by Mr. C. H. Gattis, District Passenger Agent, and chaperoned by Mrs. Gattis, over the entire trip, which leaves July 3d.

Handsome Equipped Pullman Train, Pullman Observation Car, Pullman Dining Car. The most scenic route through the Greatest Country in the World. Through the Goats and Caysons of the Rocky Mountains by Daylight. At the Elk's National Convention, Los Angeles, July 12th to 16th. Up the Coast of the Pacific Ocean, the Alaska-Yukon Exposition. Five and one-half days through the Yellowstone Park. The stops at the Principal Cities and Resorts and through the Grand Scenery of the West.

The most inexpensive trip ever operated from the Southeast, through Atlanta, Birmingham, Memphis, stopping at Kansas City, Denver, Colorado Springs, Salt Lake, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Francisco, Portland, Seattle, Tacoma, Spokane, through Yellowstone National Park, St. Paul, Chicago, returning home through Cincinnati and C. O. through Richmond.

Trip cost will include railroad and Pullman fares, hotel, dining car meals, stage ride of five (5) and one-half (1-2) days through the Yellowstone National Park, transfers, side trips, carriage and automobile rides at stop-over points and all actual expenses necessary with the exception of meals at Los Angeles and Seattle, and a few other minor expenses, which we explain in itinerary sent to those who make application.

Side trips will be arranged at all stop-over points to places of interest, all details being arranged in advance and looked after en route. An attractive 33-day trip through the "Greatest Country in the World," covering a distance of 8,755 miles of travel in a modern Pullman train with superb dining car service, eating and sleeping in the best of hotels, sight-seeing "The Wonders of the West" leisurely, with all details arranged in advance is a luxury of a lifetime. Write at once to the undersigned for cost of trip, schedule and itinerary. If maps, timetables and booklets of the lines over which the party will travel are desired, send 30 cents in stamps.

Yellowstone National Park JULY 3d to AUGUST 6th. Personally Conducted Tour Around the Continent VIA SEABOARD AIR LINE. Special Pullman train "all the way around" will handle the tour, leaving via the Seaboard, personally conducted by Mr. C. H. Gattis, District Passenger Agent, and chaperoned by Mrs. Gattis, over the entire trip, which leaves July 3d. FEATURES OF THE TRIP Handsome Equipped Pullman Train, Pullman Observation Car, Pullman Dining Car. The most scenic route through the Greatest Country in the World. Through the Goats and Caysons of the Rocky Mountains by Daylight. At the Elk's National Convention, Los Angeles, July 12th to 16th. Up the Coast of the Pacific Ocean, the Alaska-Yukon Exposition. Five and one-half days through the Yellowstone Park. The stops at the Principal Cities and Resorts and through the Grand Scenery of the West.

First Excursion to Wilmington, N. C., June 10th, 1909, Via Seaboard. Round Trip Rate \$30.00. The Seaboard will run an excursion train leaving Charlotte Wednesday, June 16th, at 8:30 a. m., arriving at Wilmington about 4 p. m., leaving Wilmington 9 a. m., Friday, June 18th. Fare for the round trip will be only \$30.00. This is the first outing of this year and all should take the opportunity to take a dip in the ocean. All hotels at Wrightsville are open and ready for guests. See large flyers for further particulars. JAMES KER, JR., City Passenger Agent.

NORFOLK & WESTERN RAILWAY. Schedule in effect June 8, 1909. 11:00 a. m. Lv. Charlotte, So. Ry. Ar. 1:00 p. m. 2:40 p. m. Lv. Winston, N. & W. Ar. 3:30 p. m. 4:44 p. m. Lv. Martinsville, Lv. 11:48 a. m. 7:40 p. m. Ar. Roanoke, Lv. 9:35 a. m. Connect at Roanoke via Shenandoah Valley Route for Hagerstown, and all points in Pennsylvania and New York. Pullman sleeper, Roanoke and Philadelphia.

SEABOARD These arrivals and departures as well as the time and connection with other companies, are given only as information and are not guaranteed. Direct line to the principal cities North, East, South and Southwest. Schedule taking effect May 2, 1909, subject to change without notice.

SEABOARD Through coach, Charlotte to Roanoke. Additional train leaves Winston 7:45 a. m. daily except Sunday. If you are thinking of taking a trip you want quotations, cheapest rates, reliable and correct information, as to routes, train schedules, the most comfortable and quickest way. Write and the information is yours for the asking, with one of our complete map booklets.

Southern Railway N. B.—Following schedule figures published only as information and are not guaranteed. 11:00 a. m. No. 36 daily, for Washington and points North. Pullman drawing room sleepers to New York. Day coaches to Washington. 1:30 a. m. No. 35 daily, for Columbia, Savannah and Jacksonville. Pullman drawing room sleepers to Augusta and Jacksonville. Day coaches to Jacksonville.

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