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PATHS IN THE WILDERNESS

Bushman Sees Them Plainly When They
Are Invisible to Townsmen.

Neal Shaw, "Pinehurst's Living Guide
Book," Knows Country Round-
about for Radius of Ten Miles.



VERY visitor here who
has been much in the
country-side round about
the Village, particularly
the sportsmen, have won-
dered with increasing
wonder, at the skill shown by native
guides in finding their way through a
country which to them seemed absolute-
ly without landmarks. It has been said
of Neal Shaw, the veteran who is some-
times styled "Pinehurst's Living Guide
Book," that you could blindfold him and
drop him down anywhere within a radius
of ten miles of Pinehurst and he would
come straight to the Village as readily as
a carrier pigeon.

What appears marvelous and positively
uncanny to a town resident is simple to a
bushman. Years of continuous observa-
tion develop the bump of locality. Every
object has a place and meaning to a trap-
per; his eye is ever on the alert, and
what his eye sees is photographed on the
brain and remains there for future refer-
ence at any time he may require it.

This bump of locality is highly devel-
oped in all Indians and whites who have
passed many years in the bush. Without
the faculty of remembering objects a
bushman could not find his way through
the forests.

Providing the trapper has once passed
from one place to another, he is pretty
sure to find his way through the second
time, even if years should have elapsed
between the trips.

Every object from start to finish is an
index finger pointing out the right path.

A sloping path, a leaning tree, a moss-
covered rock, a slight elevation in land, a
cut in the hills, the water in the creek,
an odd-looking stone, a blasted tree—all
help as guides as the observant trapper
makes his way through a pathless forest.

I followed an Indian guide once over a
trail of 280 miles, whereon we snow-shoed
over mountains, through dense bush,
down rivers and over lakes.

To test my powers of a retentive mem-
ory, the following winter when dispatches
again had to be taken to headquarters, I
asked the Indian to allow me to act as
guide, he following.

On that long journey of 10 or 12 days,
always walking and continually thinking
out the road, I was in doubt only once.
We were standing on the ice; a tongue of
land stood out toward us, a bay on either
side. The portage leaving the lake was
at the bottom of one of these bays, but
which.

The Indian had halted almost on the
tails of my snowshoes, and enjoyed my
hesitation, but said nothing. To be as-
sured of no mistake, I had to pass over
the whole of last winter's trip in my
mind's eye up to the point on which we
stood. Once the retrospect caught up
with us, there was no further trouble.

Our route was down the left-hand bay.

When the Indian saw me start in that
direction, he said: "A-a-ke-pu-ka-tan"
("Yes, yes, you are able").

The most difficult proposition to tackle
is a black spruce swamp. The trees are
mostly of uniform size and height, the
surface of the snow is perfectly level, and
at times our route lies miles through such
a country, and should there be a dull,
leadensky or a gentle snow falling there
is nothing for the guide to depend on but
his ability to walk straight.

It has been written time and again that
the tendency, when there are no land-
marks, is to walk in a circle.

By constant practice those who are
brought up in the wilds acquire the abil-
ity to walk in a straight line. They be-
gin by beating a trail from point to point
on some long stretch of ice, and in the
bush, where any tree or obstruction
bars the way, they make up for any devi-
ation from the straight course by a give-
and-take process, so that the general line
of march is straight.

During 40 years in the country I never
knew an Indian or white bushman to
carry a compass. Apart from a black
spruce swamp, it would be of no use
whatever.

Bishop and Mrs. Cheshire Receive.

One of the charming social affairs of
the week past was a reception tendered
by Mrs. T. B. Cotter, at the Cypress Cot-
tage, Saturday morning from eleven to
one, to Bishop and Mrs. Joseph Blount
Cheshire, of Raleigh.

Bishop and Mrs. Cheshire received un-
attended, and a large number of the Vil-
lage guests availed themselves of the op-
portunity offered to meet them person-
ally.

Mrs. Cotter was assisted by Mrs. Mont-
gomery A. Crockett and Mrs. Charles
Hansel, who poured, and Mrs. A. I.
Creamer and Miss Mary M. Wilbur, who
served.

TENNIS BALL GOLF.

Charles Hansel Wins Novel Washing-
ton's Birthday Frolic.

A tennis ball nine-hole medal play golf
tournament was an amusing feature Wed-
nesday, a cup being offered for the best
gross scores which Charles Hansel, New
York, won with 65.

Other scores were: H. M. Ridabock,
81; G. H. Converse, 82; Mrs. G. H. Con-
verse, 85; M. B. Byrnes, 85; H. S. Gor-
don, 86; G. R. Wallace, 92; Mrs. B. de
Mossin, 94; H. S. Houston, 113.

A. I. Creamer, D. H. Hostetter, F. B.
King, T. B. Cotter and Mrs. H. S. Gor-
don participated but did not hand in
cards.

Sunday's Episcopal Service.

Rev. Thomas Garland, Philadelphia,
will celebrate Holy Communion and
preach at the Episcopal church service
Sunday morning at ten o'clock. Rev.
Mr. Garland is secretary to the Bishop
of Pennsylvania and on the editorial staff
of the *Church Standard*.

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