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INTERESTING ENVIRONS

Country-side is Picturesque, Varied and Full of Human Interest.

A Guide to and Description of Some of the Most Popular Rides Round About.

THE ENVIRONS of the vicinity possess a peculiar charm for visitors owing to their picturesque, variety, and the glimpse of the quaint life of the natives which they give. Numerous roads lead off in many directions, for in this section, as in the days of olden Rome, "all roads lead to Pinehurst," and as a result, the horseback rides are numerous and fascinating.

There are many groves of primeval pine; broad lowlands, with their luxurious tangle of holly and other shrubs; wide expanse of plain, with sedge grass and scrub oak; gleaming ponds, with decaying mills and moss-covered water-wheels; cotton gins, turpentine distilleries, tar kilns, lumber mills, fruit orchards, grape vineyards, and everywhere, one finds the homes of the natives and comes in contact with their interesting occupations.

THAGARD'S AND VICINITY.

One of the most popular and easiest points of access is "Thagard's," located eight miles in a northeasterly direction, and reached by a road, once an Indian trail, which starts from the Palmetto gate and is plainly marked the entire distance. The place was formerly a mammoth plantation of about 2400 acres, and the home of the Thagard family for nearly fifty years. Previous to the war, it was the centre round which the life of the vicinity radiated, and the old building which served as postoffice and general store, is still standing. The old grist mill is in picturesque ruin, but the powerful dam, which holds back Lower Little River, maintains a beautiful pond over a mile in length and nearly half a mile wide.

The old plantation mansion still stands and about it are mighty pines which thrill one with their majesty, forming a large grove, which is an ideal place for picnickers. The semi-cultivated fields of the plantation are a favorite resort for quail, woodcock abound in the lowlands, and the wild turkey is not uncommon.

On the bluff between the grist and saw mills, is the quarry from which the famous "Climax" mill stones have come.

Lakeview, a small winter resort, lies beyond Thagard's and is reached by the road which passes to the right of the river, from which point it is plainly marked with signs. The little place is well located with a pretty pond, a hotel, stores, and numerous homes.

The Union Home School lies beyond Thagard's on the great Pee Dee road, about fourteen miles from Pinehurst. It is a good example of southern academies. There is a church near by, and the great road from Carthage crosses here.

MCKENZIE'S AND VICINITY.

A point of more than ordinary interest is the McKenzie plantation, one of the oldest in the neighborhood, and only two miles from the Village. A substantial log house, erected in 1818, is the home of a typical family of native whites, who are always glad to see visitors. The spinning wheel and hand loom are still in use here, and the simplicity of the native life is well illustrated.

The landscape is most attractive and the pond, mill, falls, and the ford below it, are most picturesque. The grist mill is still in operation and farmers come from miles around, as they have done for more than half a century, paying toll for having their grain ground into meal, in the old-fashioned way.

The route is through the gravel pit gate at the rear of the power house, from which point one keeps straight ahead, crossing the Yadkin Road, and passing "Sunset Lake" at the right, a mile from the Village. From this point, the plainest left hand road is followed in a north-westerly direction, the ford crossing the stream just below the mill with the house in plain view, on the hill beyond.

One may return the same route, or follow the pond road continuing on past the Wallace Farm, Pine Ridge schoolhouse and Wicker's Goat Farm to the Village, a distance of about three and a half miles. This trip is, by the way, a most enjoyable horseback ride.

McCaskill's Plantation lies beyond McKenzie's. After crossing the ford follow the lane up the hill, past the McKenzie house, on the right, to a point about one mile away when Nick's Creek is crossed. The road here turns to the right and leads straight to the plantation. There is an old farm here, a large pine grove, and a pond from which power for electric lights in Carthage, Aberdeen and Southern Pines is secured.

The Culdee Presbyterian Church lies beyond McKenzie's. After crossing Nick's Creek, where a road turns to the right leading down the creek, follow the direct road up a steep hill, and continue on the most direct road. The church is about four miles from Pinehurst and close by it, is a burying ground in which the graves are marked with slabs of native fat pine, which in this climate, lasts many years.

Black's Mills also lies beyond McKenzie's and the route is the same as to McCaskill's, as far as Nick's Creek, at which point one turns to the right and passes Ritter's, then on to the Southern Pines road to Carthage, which leads to the mills.

WICKER'S GOAT FARM.

Another point, very easy of access, being but two miles distant, is Mack Wicker's Goat Farm. The route is through the Goat Farm gate, back of The Carolina, taking the left hand road leading in a northwesterly direction, and crossing the ford at Joe's Fork, which is just below the farm buildings. A number of goats of all ages and conditions will be found here and their merry frolics furnish entertainment for young and old.

The return may be made in the same way, or one may continue on to the crossroads near the A. & A. R. R. track, turn-